

‘Poor levels of cleanliness’ sees food firm prosecuted

BAKERY IN £10k FINE ON HYGIENE

Report by Carl Jackson

A WALSALL bakery has been handed a £10,000 fine after breaching a raft of food safety regulations.

Billy Bunter's Bakehouse in Park Street Arcade was prosecuted for failings including having dirty food containers, floors and shelves.

The business also came under fire for storing a bag of buttercream icing next to a packet of raw bacon and failing to address broken freezer lids.

Further counts surrounded the poor state of a cleaning cloth and anti-bacterial spray, which were left hanging on a pipe above nearby fruit pie cases.

In total the firm and director Kuldip Lal Ram faced eight counts each of failing to comply with or breaching Food Safety and Hygiene Regulations in relation to an inspection in March last year.

Ram, aged 43, of Winchcombe Close, Dudley, was also prosecuted and fined to the tune of £600.

At Walsall Magistrates Court on Monday, prosecutor Ms Kerry Munro said: "During a routine environmental health inspection, very poor levels of cleanliness and hygiene were observed."

Supervised

"Food was at risk of contamination while being prepared and overall standards fell short of what is required to run a food establishment."

"Staff appeared to have a poor understanding of food hygiene requirements and they were not properly supervised."

"The level of hygiene checks were not suitable, with the only checks made being to record fridge temperature and times that sandwiches were made."

"When interviewed after the inspection, Ms Ram said she thought that this was acceptable but she now understands what is required."

The firm and Ram pleaded guilty to all of the charges.

She said: "The business is not what it was, it isn't making that much money but I have managed to do all of the work required now."

"I had some time off prior to the inspection and left my sister in charge."

"It appears that she didn't follow instructions regarding cleaning and so the site ended up in this condition."

"We have never had a problem with environmental health inspections before."

The magistrates also imposed court cost of £1,009 and a victim surcharge of £120 on both parties.

TERROR ATTACK TRAGEDY FAMILY IN TRIBUTE



The bench memorial to Tunisia terror victim Adrian Evans. Seated left, widow, Maureen Evans and right sister Suzy Richards, with family and friends

THE family hit by tragedy when a Tunisian terrorist gunned down three relatives, gathered as a memorial bench was unveiled to honour one of the victims – Adrian Evans – who would have been 50 this week.

Sandwell Council worker and fervent Walsall FC fan Mr Evans was killed alongside his nephew Joel and father Patrick by Islamic State terrorist Seifeddine Rezgui in June.

To mark his birthday, Mr Evans' colleagues at the authority clubbed together to create the new memorial themselves from scratch – which has been erected next to

his office window. His sister Suzy Richards thanked everyone for their support, as bosses at the authority revealed new apprenticeship awards will be named after Mr Evans.

Friends and family released balloons at an emotional ceremony on Monday.

Suzy said: "Ade was so special and all the people here have shown how special and how loved he was. He was my older brother but more than that – he was my rock. I still miss him and it's just so unfair that this happened, but this is a lovely tribute to him."

The council's director of neighbourhood

services Adrian Scarrott said the bench was a fitting tribute to a much-loved and well-respected employee. It is an emotional week for the family, as Patrick Evans would have turned 79 on Friday.

Wednesday North ward Councillor Elaine Costigan, who is a friend of the family, said: "Adrian was such a character and obviously he's really missed by all the people who worked here. He did a fantastic job and was such a nice guy. What happened is so sad but this is a really poignant tribute."

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HERITAGE

Flag is flying high again with plaque

A PLAQUE of the Willenhall flag that was destroyed last year has been replaced. The granite stone was originally installed at the town's library in November 2014 to mark the unveiling of the area's very own flag in recognition of the world famous lock industry.

However, it was discovered smashed in pieces by a passer-by last June. Kalie Plant, of Willenhall Ay We, which was behind the project, said: "The old one that got smashed was granite but this one is a different material and we are hoping it will be okay."



The new plaque

TRANSPORT

Major road to M6 finally back open

A MAJOR route in Darlaston which has been closed for more than two years as part of multi-million pound roadworks has finally reopened.

Bentley Road South had been a well-used route in the town for motorists travelling to and from the M6.

Ward councillor Doug James said its closure, part of £26 million infrastructure improvements in Darlaston, and subsequent delays in getting it reopened had 'boxed' residents in. He said: "I am delighted that it has now reopened."

CHARITY

HomeServe shows real heart for cause

A HOME energy repairs firm in Walsall has raised more than £2,000 for charity.

HomeServe encouraged its staff to buy heart-shaped balloons with the money going to Marie Curie charity.

The balloons were then sent secretly to people around the business.

HomeServe's chief marketing officer Greg Reed said: "Love is certainly in the air in our offices at the moment."

"Saying thank you to each other is part of our everyday culture, but the balloons offered our people a really fun way to show some love and thank each other."

INSIDE

CORBYN CAUSES A COMMOTION



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SPORTS:
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ADVERTISING: Sarah Jones
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Devastated friends in tributes to Zoe



Schoolgirl Zoe Shapiro, aged 15

FLORAL tributes have been laid by friends of a schoolgirl killed after being hit by a van. Devastated classmates have remembered Great Barr teenager Zoe Shapiro who died last Wednesday.

The 17-year-old was struck by the van in Birmingham Road, close to where she lived. And the teenager's death has left her mother mourning the loss of a second child in three years, according to reports.

Max Corbett-Gardener, the son of Jo Corbett-Weeks, died in 2013 aged

just four from complications arising from severe epilepsy, it has been said. Students from Q3 Academy, in Wilberness Lane, Great Barr, where Zoe studied have been paying tribute.

Dr Caroline Badyal, the academy's principal, said: "Zoe joined Q3 Academy in the Sixth Form in September 2015. Zoe was a wonderful young lady who cared greatly for her family and friends. Zoe's friends at Q3 Academy have been sharing their memories of her and her kind-hearted nature and how she embraced change and chal-

lenge. She was a charitable individual who was heavily involved in the Acoms Children's Hospice.

"She was actively engaged in Academy life, supporting younger students. Zoe was committed to her studies and had aspirations to attend Birmingham University to pursue a career working with children with special needs."

The 42-year-old driver of the van was arrested at the scene on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. He has been released on police bail while enquiries continue.

Missed appointments cost health trust £12m

MISSED appointments at Walsall Manor Hospital have cost the cash-strapped trust more than £12 million in three years.

Between 2012/13 and 2014/15 there were 131,615 reported missed appointments.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust has said a new patient administration system which was implemented in 2014 caused some data to be recorded inaccurately.

Bosses have also urged patients to keep to their appointments and contact the hospital if they cannot attend when scheduled. Steven Vaughan, the trust's interim chief operating officer, said: "Missed appointments do have financial implications for the Trust and add up to millions of pounds - a session with a consultant can cost more than £250 for example.

"But most importantly, the appointment could have been given to another patient to make use of, helping them gain access to a speedier diagnosis or treatment."

Reminder

Mr Vaughan added: "We encourage patients to keep their scheduled appointments and contact us if they are unable to do so for any reason. We are also looking at other ways to contact patients such as a text reminder service."

The figures, obtained by a Freedom of Information request, revealed there were 40,883 missed appointments in the 2012/13 financial year which cost £3,894,218.

In 2013/14 the number of appointments not attended increased to 41,367 although the overall cost was less than the year before at £3,516,193.

But following the introduction of the new administration system missed appointments soared by 8,000 in 2014/2015 to 49,365, costing £4,850,965. The total bill for the three years came in at £12,261,376.

The trust has vowed that a number of measures have been introduced which should reduce the problems and chiefs stated that costs are expected to be much lower when the full 2015/16 figures are calculated.

In February, bosses declared they would need further capital investment in the future if the Manor Hospital was to improve its infrastructure and cope with the demand from increased patient numbers.

Drawing a conclusion for project



Beano artist Hunt Emerson with Silver Thread project sewing lead Rachel Parker

HE spends his time drawing Dennis the Menace, Billy Whizz and Biffo the Bear.

But Beano artist Hunt Emerson has a new task on his hands - helping design tapestries for a Walsall borough sewing project. As part of the Silver Thread project, Mr Emerson will be providing ideas the tapestries, which will then be sewn by an army of volunteers.

The 12-month project, which began earlier this year, is being funded by the Arts Council Eng-

land Lottery Funding to the tune of £73,400. It will see 11 unique tapestries created representing the six towns and other areas in Walsall. They will reflect the borough's living history, diversity and commonality; acknowledge the past, reflect the present and embrace the future.

Walsall Council's Mayor, Councillor Angela Underhill, said the project would reflect 'the creative energy' that the people of Walsall exhibit.

Mr Emerson, aged 63, lives in Birmingham. As well as working on the Beano, he has also helped produce other comics such as Graphixus, Moon Comix, Yikes, Animal Bite Comix and No Ducks.

Throughout March organisers host meetings in 11 different areas of Walsall to plan the content for the tapestries. The actual sewing will not begin until after Easter. Anyone with ideas for the designs can attend a meeting on the project. For details call 01922 653114.

Libraries hope after proposed budget is scrapped

SEVEN closure-threatened libraries across the Walsall borough were given a stay of execution after a budget proposal put forward by the ruling Conservatives was dramatically overthrown by Labour and Liberal Democrats members.

Councillors from the two political parties joined forces to force through an alternative budget for the financial year from April

It happened at a meeting which saw councillors from all political parties debate the proposed cuts at length and hold a two-hour adjournment as they attempted to strike a new deal.

The Labour and Liberal Democrat budget did not include the initially proposed closures of Beechdale, Blakenhall, New Invention, Rushall, South Walsall, Walsall Wood and Pleck libraries.

But council tax will still rise by 3.99 per cent, with £29 million worth of savings needed for the year.

The proposed budget will be considered again for a final decision after the local council elections in May - despite the financial year starting in April.

Labour leader Councillor Sean Coughlan, speaking during the meeting, said: "Under our proposals we will not be closing any libraries. We seem to continue cutting the voluntary sector but we will not cut the grant supplied to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

"Three years ago I set up a working group to look at the impact of the cuts and we had an all-party agreement it would be wrong to cut CAB funding."

Withdrawing

The new Labour and Liberal Democrat budget proposed withdrawing cuts in the region of £150,000 to seven libraries earmarked with closure.

The plans will also see Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills and Willenhall libraries becoming Open Plus hubs with extended opening times. The parties also looked at preventing £100,000 of cuts to area panels, which were set up to give residents the chance to ask councillors questions.

The alternative budget looked at saving £260,000 and £50,000 worth of cuts to lifestyle services and the Citizens Advice Bureau. An extra one-off investment of £60,000 was proposed to pump money into social clubs and activities for disabled people.

The parties claimed they could save £527,000 from the budgets of the children's, change and governance, economy and environment, and adult social care sectors.

They said by taking into account the time employment positions were, on average, left vacant in all those departments for various reasons, it meant the overall budget could be shrunk to make large savings. A further £348,642 would come from earmarked reserves.

Conservative leader Councillor Mike Bird said his party would stick with the original budget if they ruled cabinet after the local elections.

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Committee backs move for schools' expansion

THE proposed expansion of four primary schools in the Walsall borough, including two in Willenhall, has been given the green light by a scrutiny committee.

A decision had already been passed by the council's cabinet to expand the schools, but Councillor Doug James had the decision called in for extra scrutiny, describing it as 'bonkers'.

However an education scrutiny committee has upheld the original decision.

Under the plans, Beacon Primary School in Willenhall, Greenfield Primary School in Shelfield, King's Hill Primary School in Darlaston and St Giles in Willenhall will all see the size of their reception classes boosted.

Councillor Chris Towse, Walsall's education boss, said: "The original agreement was upheld. I was disappointed that Councillor James did not come directly to me as the portfolio holder with his concerns."

Councillor James had raised his concerns over the decision making process as King's Hill Primary in Darlaston was in special measures at the time of its selection for expansion.

But Councillor Towse said the idea of the expansion was looking towards the future. Classes at Beacon would increase from 45 pupils to 60, Greenfield from 30 to 45, King's Hill from 45 to 60 and St Giles from 45 to 60.

However, Councillor James has still lashed out at the council, saying that by choosing a failing school they were giving the message that 'any school will do'.

90 jobs as care home approved

A 58-BEDROOM care home in Aldridge has been given the green light by Walsall Council planning chiefs. The home will be built on the former Block Works site on Chester Road. Plans were submitted by Perry Barr-based firm Willinbrook Health Care and will create 90 full-time equivalent jobs.

The development will cater for people with mental or physical illnesses.

Planning documents state: "It is intended the proposal will provide a much-needed facility in the local area for older people with heavily dependent nursing and dementia needs and will be designed and built to Willinbrook Healthcare's benchmark specification, underpinned by national research."

Thief steals four trims from car

A THIEF left a car in Great Wyrley without its wheel trims, after it was targeted in Hall Lane, sometime between last Monday night and early Tuesday morning. A police warning has gone out for motorists to ensure trims are secured.

Galleries point to a change of art



Artist Christopher Holloway

ART exhibitions and galleries have been popping up in a variety of Walsall locations to promote new pieces of work.

Direct Art Action has brought together five exhibition spaces featuring a contemporary painters gallery and a dark space installation maze.

The scheme, which is being run in partnership with East Street Arts, is also promoting solo and group artwork.

A total of five artist studios, demonstration spaces, a multifunction office classroom suite and a production

workshop to support local and regional artists will also be set up inside the Old Shopping Centre.

The centre will be filled with different units including the VGallery and Contemporary Painters Unit. The Maze will be more of an exhibition space, working with students.

"Walsall College will be hosting an academic and student show as part of a winter exhibition, which should open on March 18," said Gavin Lawley, who runs Direct Art Action. "A library, office and photography space will also be set up above VGallery."

A free open gallery exhibition in Old Square Shopping Centre, called Natalie Squared is on display until Sunday, 10am to 6pm.

The work aims to unplug the silence about who is able to access digital technology and who is represented through social media platforms.

Artist Christopher Holloway, who grew up in the Black Country, will be demonstrating his work in the Direct Art Action exhibition space in the Old Square, while Gallerie Du Grotesque, will also have its own unit in the shopping centre.

Mother shares son's inspirational story

DANIEL Millard is a happy 14-year-old who loves nothing more than playing football.

Yet when he was born doctors feared he would not survive longer than a day. He had been diagnosed in the womb with a condition known as exomphalos, meaning his internal organs grew inside the umbilical chord.

His mother Sally-Anne, aged 34, of Beechdale, Walsall, has now launched an online video to raise more awareness about the rare condition.

It shows pregnant women and mothers with babies suffering from exomphalos, which affects one in every 2,500 children, that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Sally-Anne uses flash cards and pictures, without speaking, to explain her tough journey through pregnancy, the diagnosis, birth and the pain of not knowing if her son would make it, until finally reaching where she is today, the mother of three boys. "It's such a rare condition and no-one really knows anything about it," she said.

"I wanted to try and raise awareness about it so I put together a video, which has now had more than 12,000 views online.

Abdominal

"I want to get as much information out there as possible, as well as setting up a supporting network for people who have had babies or those who are carrying babies with the illness."

Exomphalos is an abdominal wall defect and with Daniel's condition as it is today, it is like living with a permanent hernia. While he was still in the womb his stomach, intestines and liver had all grown through the umbilical chord and were protruding out of his where his belly button should have been. He had numerous operations to try to put his organs back, including a procedure when he was 18 months old to create new abdominal muscles to hold everything in place.

Daniel, who attends Willenhall E-ACT Academy, supports Manchester United and is the older brother of Mitchell, 11, and Cameron, eight, has gone back into surgery for a hernia operation.

One of the major side effects of his condition these days is stomach paralysis. But Sally-Anne, who is married to 33-year-old Simon, said he still managed to lead a very good life. "He suffers from a few problems but it's nothing major," said Sally-Anne, who has also set up Exomphalos Support Group West Midlands on Facebook.

She said: "I just want to give people hope because this can happen to anyone at any time. He's pretty inspirational."



14-year-old Daniel Millard with his mom and dad Simon and Sally-Anne at home in Darwin Road



Daniel's tummy now, after various operations



Daniel with grandmother, Jean Vurlan, at eight months

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fusebox sparks blaze at home

A FUSEBOX caught fire in a Bloxwich home, prompting a warning to residents to check their fire alarms. Ten firefighters attended the blaze at Mulberry Road last Thursday at 10.52am.

Nobody was hurt during the fire.

A spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service said: "It was a 999 call reporting a fire. We sent two fire engines to the scene, one from Willenhall and one from Bloxwich. It was 10 firefighters in total. The first message we got back said this was a fire in a fusebox on the ground floor of a semi detached

Hundreds vote for businesses

THE public has voted in their hundreds for the top businesses across the Walsall borough. Reviews have been counted and now 'thebestofwalsall' has announced winners of its Walsall Business of the Year 2016 Awards.

In first place was Think Insurance based in Caldmore, which received 310 reviews during the course of the campaign, which ran over 12 months until January.

In second place, with 292 reviews, was LNP Sound with Aldridge Premier Tuition in third position with 170.

Home's random goodwill gesture

CARE home residents and staff carried out random acts of kindness as part of a national initiative.

Random Acts of Kindness Day encourages spontaneous gestures to cheer people up. Employees and residents at HC-One's Dovedale Court Care Home in Wednesbury took part.

The home collected items to pass on to a local foodbank with tinned foods and imperishable goods donated, making up free food parcels for families in crisis.

Decorate an Easter egg and win prizes

CANNOCK Shopping Centre is launching a 'Design Your Own Easter Egg' competition. To be in with a chance of winning a range of Easter-themed prizes worth £100, children simply need to pick up a template from some of the stores located in Cannock Shopping Centre and decorate their very own Easter egg.

Youngsters then have until March 26 to submit their designs. Entrants must remember to include their name, age and full contact details.

Dean in concert

AMERICAN singer-songwriter Dean Friedman is to perform a solo concert in Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

The 60-year-old, who has hits including Lucky Stars and Lydia, will be playing in the Georgian Gallery on June 11. Tickets are £25 from the box office in the art gallery.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



JO Heywood, head of a very upmarket boarding school in Ascot, says children should be raised gender-neutral and "if a little girl wants to spend time in a fireman's outfit, then that is to be encouraged." Tut, tut, headteacher. Isn't she aware that there is no such thing as a fireman's outfit because there is no such thing as a fireman? In these politically-correct times, they are all fire fighters.

AS for encouraging females to get into fire fighters' outfits, many need absolutely no encouragement. Ask any male stripper.

THE revelation that Pope John Paul II had a long relationship with a married woman raises once again the troubled issue of celibacy in the Catholic Church. A Daily Telegraph reader says he knew of a village priest living in Czechoslovakia in the 1920s who employed an attractive housekeeper who had a young son: "Everybody knew who the father was and they all lived happily ever after."

I AM reminded of Dave Allen's tale of the handsome priest in an Irish village. All the locals called him Father except his own children who called him Uncle.

ONE of the delusions of our celebrity-obsessed age is that if someone plays an intelligent character on the TV, that actor must be brilliant in real life. We hacks are more sceptical. When you interview celebs you find that, without a script, most of them are quite ordinary. So let's not get too excited about a group of showbiz characters, led by Jude Law, descending on the Jungle refugee camp at Calais and offering great insights into what must be done. We should not assume that the opinions of playwrights and comedians count for more than those of plumbers or teachers.



AN advert catches my eye. A big national charity which pays its chief executive £120,000 a year wants a manager for a small-town charity shop. The salary, for a 30-hour week, is £14,000 a year. My spies tell me such rates are the norm for charity-shop employees. It's surprising no-one has set up a charity for them.

I HAVE seen nothing in the EU debate this week to shift me from my original view that whether you want to stay in the EU or quit, the only sensible course of action is to vote to leave. First we vote, then we haggle.

DAVID Cameron urges us to "choose security, safety and certainty" and stay in the EU. Can anyone explain what level of security, safety and certainty you get in a club of 28 nations which, in the next few years, may be joined by Turkey, Serbia and Ukraine?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Read all about it in Bishop tribute

RESIDENTS are invited to join a one-off sponsored reading of Bishop Francis Asbury's journals to mark the 200 anniversary of his death. Inspired by Asbury's extensive writing, the March 31 tribute will help raise awareness of his amazing rise from humble origins in Hamstead to becoming one of America's founding fathers. Asbury is a hugely important figure in American his-

tory, but his fame and his origins are little known in the UK. Money raised through the sponsored reading will go to the Mayor of Sandwell's chosen charity, Acorns Children's Hospice. Bishop Asbury Cottage - his boyhood home and now a small museum - in Newton Road, Great Barr, is being opened for the occasion from 11am to 4pm. Mayor, Councillor Bar-

bara Price, will lead the reading, and local people are invited to take part. The cottage, in Newton Lane, will be open to the public from 2-5pm on April 2 and June 5. Asbury, who supported independence and spoke against slavery, has his own statue on Capitol Hill, Washington DC. For more, call 0121 556 0683 or visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/museums



Asbury Cottage, in Great Barr

Former pub to make way for apartments

By Jordan Harris

A FORMER pub in Walsall left derelict after a devastating arson attack five years ago is in line for demolition after plans were approved to replace it with apartments.

The Bulls Head in Bloxwich has been shut since 2007 and was devastated by an arson attack in 2011.

Three years ago the venue looked to have been saved after JD Wetherspoon announced plans for a £1million revamp - but the plans were scrapped.

Now Walsall Council planning officers have recommended a proposal to demolish the Park Road pub and build 14 support living apartments at the site be approved seemingly sealing the fate of the former watering-hole.

Bloxwich councillor Kath Phillips said news that the pub, which has stood in the area since the 1920s, is set to be knocked down is positive for the town.

Eyesore

She said: "I am delighted that the application is going to be approved. It has been an absolute eyesore for such a long time, it really has. This is fantastic news for Bloxwich."

"It is a shame that the pub is going to go, it has been a part of the town for a long time, but I do think there was no way back for the site as a pub."

"Attempts had been made in the past and they fell through so it was just a case of something needing to be done now."

"We have a real need for supported living accommodation in Bloxwich, we have quite an ageing population."

"I think supported living is the best way to look after our elderly too, so it really is great news all round."

The pub's roof was destroyed in a suspected arson attack which caused part of the first floor and interior walls to collapse back in 2011.

Horsing around at care home visit



Doreen Barnett, left and Anne with Shetland ponies Angel and Tinkerbell at Wood Green Nursing Home

NURSING home residents were treated to a surprise visit from a pair of Shetland ponies.

Bosses of Wood Green Nursing Home, in Wednesbury, organised the event as part of therapy sessions for residents. Two tiny ponies greeted residents in the home. Staff say they are keen to bring in the ponies again this summer.

Home Director Tracey Plant said: "We like to try and bring in something different for residents. We have brought in professional singers and travelling pantomime over Christmas."

"The visit was great fun. Some of the residents family members visited and the children were sitting on the ponies' backs."

The ponies, called Tinkerbell and Angel, belonged to Lollipop Pony Parties. Resident Betty Ashmore, aged 88, said: "I thought they were beautiful and they made me laugh, they were so cute."

The advantages of pet ownership are increasingly touted by reports highlighting research linking it with a range of positive outcomes. These include decreased stress and heart disease risk to improved sleep and social functioning.

Charities including Pet As Therapy offer animal visits to hospitals, hospice and care homes.

The charity, founded in 1983, claims the 'therapeutic visits' enhance lives by providing companionship and friendship to help tackle loneliness.

Class block to be built on land in green belt

PLANS to demolish a 'sub-standard' class block at a Great Barr school and rebuild it on green belt land look set to go ahead. The new two-storey building in the pipeline at Barr Beacon School will create 29 classrooms - six more than the current block.

If planning consent is granted by Walsall Council the existing building at the Old Hall Lane site will be replaced by tennis courts and the new facility will be constructed onto a plot of green belt land within school grounds.

The authority's conservation officers has branded the scheme 'inappropriate development in the green belt' but overall development officials say the benefits of the building meet the special circumstances required to meet national planning laws.

The council's planning committee will make a decision on the proposal today, Thursday.

A report prepared for the meeting states: "Notwithstanding the objections raised by the council's conservation officer regarding impact on the character of the Conservation Area such as openness, it is considered that the proposed classroom block would provide an acceptable modern embellishment to the existing built form of the school complex."

"The proposed school extension would be largely screened by existing boundary planting. On balance, it is considered that the benefits of an improved education provision outweigh any potential harm to the character of the Conservation Area."

Noddy's history lesson to pupils

ROCKER Noddy Holder went back to school to give a history lesson to students about is hometown.

The ex-Slade frontman returned to his former school, Walsall Academy, chatting to sixth form students about Bloxwich's rich heritage, speaking to camera and posing for pictures.

The event was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which aims to teach students more about the history of their area.

Holder attended the school when it was T P Riley. It was demolished in 2001 before reopening as Walsall Academy two years later.

A band made up of supported learning students and school staff performed with Holder at Walsall Manor Hospital during a Christmas lights switch-on event two years ago.

Towns get rollout of 4G from Vodafone

PHONE provider Vodafone have rolled out their 4G service in Brownhills and Burntwood.

The arrival of 4G will mean all customers with compatible devices and bundles will be able to ably and in more places than ever before.

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Metro stop parking bid is unveiled to the public

REVISED plans for a 196-space car park at a Black Country Metro stop have been unveiled to the public for the first time. The scheme originally had an entrance to the proposed Park and Ride on Bradley Lane, which has now been moved to Belmont Street following local residents' concerns.

The updated proposals were shown to the public at the Travellers Rest in Moxley last Wednesday. The plans have also taken into consideration the football pitches already on the site and updating them so they meet FA standards.

Andrew Child, the main designer from Acorn, the planning consultancy firm working with Centro, said: "A year ago we had the consultation, we listened to people's comments to have the access off Belmont Street instead.

"We've now moved the car park to the western corner of the site which is of low value grass and the playing pitches are staying the same as Support England have asked for, with two adult pitches, one junior and one youth pitch."

More than 25 people turned out to view the new plans and following what Centro cite as positive feedback from the public, they plan to take the new designs to Walsall Council in April seeking planning permission.

Sue Bridges, Centro spokesman, said: "We're really pleased that last year the consultation went well and people are happy with the changes we've made. It will be a great help in getting people into Birmingham from this area."

Programming course at library

A FREE club designed to inspire young people interested in computer programming is being held at Aldridge Library.

Code Club will be run by library staff and volunteers with computing backgrounds from 4-5pm on Fridays. It is the first club of its kind in the borough.

Step-by-step projects help people aged nine-to-11 to develop programming language skills like scratch which are then used to create computer games, animations and websites.

To become a code club volunteer, visit www.codeclub.org.uk for more information. Contact Aldridge Library on 01922 655569 or email aldrigeli-brary@walsall.gov.uk

Sailing club in boost for RNLI

THE Walsall branch of the RNLI has received £808 from Chase Sailing Club. Commodore Steve Turner of the Chasetown club, said: "We use our own lake, but also have races at sea, and so never know when we may need help from the RNLI."

Sneekes up for tough challenge



Richard Sneekes

FOOTBALL boss Richard Sneekes will draw on one of the toughest experiences of his 18-year career for inspiration as he prepares to tackle the Great Birmingham 10k.

The former Baggies hero, now aged 47 and manager of Rushall Olympic, is taking on run, on Sunday, May 1, to improve his fitness.

Sneekes, who lives in Sutton Coldfield with wife Shirley and five children, says his days of being one of the fittest players at The Hawthorns – where he spent five years – are long gone.

But the prospect of running the 10k, which starts and finishes in Birmingham city centre, takes the Dutchman back to a torturous pre-season training camp in Denmark. "I was a good runner back in the day," said Sneekes.

"I remember one pre-season with Albion in Greve when we didn't see the ball for 10 days. I was running, running, running! That was a tough old week.

"But that's a long time ago. I haven't done a proper run since the Sutton Fun Run nine years ago so I have one goal in mind – just to finish the 10k!"

Sneekes, who became a firm fans' favourite in making 253 Albion appearances between 1996 and 2001, faces as big a challenge fitting training runs into his busy schedule. He works as a PE teacher at Sutton's Highclare School during the week, running regular after-school clubs on top of managing Rushall.

He also runs a soccer school with ex-Albion team-mate Daryl Burgess on Monday evenings and co-hosts a football phone-in with BBC Radio WM's Paul Franks on Wednesdays from 6-7pm. Sneekes plays for Coles Lane Vets in the Central Warwickshire Over-35s League on Sunday mornings before watching youngest son Jamiro, 14, play in the afternoon.

To take part in the run, visit <http://www.greatrun.org/great-birmingham-10k>

Corbyn cool and casual for Black Country visit

"I'D better buy a jacket," laughs Jeremy Corbyn walking towards Golden Girl clothes shop in Market Place, Willenhall.

The Labour leader seemingly shrugging off the Prime Minister's derogatory remarks about his attire 24 hours earlier.

"He's actually jealous of the jacket," he said. "I think it is actually a rather nice jacket. Don't you? I bought it in Holloway Road.

"The thing the Prime Minister really is jealous of is that I can shop there. He has to go to Bond Street."

Jezza, making an effort to do up his top button and pull up his red tie, strolled through Willenhall town centre with shadow home secretary Andy Burnham and Walsall Labour group leader councillor Sean Coughlan in tow.

An unlikely glamour trio. Mr Corbyn's brown boots, although incongruent with his suit, were good for walking. And, as it would prove, he needed them.

Shoppers stopped dead in their tracks and whipped out their smartphones to capture Mr Corbyn's image eternally.

Others peered out of their windows as the media circus slowly, ever so slowly, made its way up the slight incline through the town.

Dashed

There was even the odd kiss on the cheek. And if his minders (three by my count) harboured any concern over how the son of Shropshire would be received, they were quickly dashed.

Ramlal Jassal, 82, made the first approach to the bearded leader. "Don't give up," he urged. "You have done very well and continue to be the leader, make your decisions, we are behind you."

Also in pursuit were Wayne and Heidi Pickrell with their silver chrome camera in hand. You could see the excitement in their eyes as the dishevelled figure of Mr Corbyn appeared in front of them while on their Thursday afternoon shopping trip.

Joining the ever-growing swarm, they eventually got their picture taken with their idol. Mr Burnham even snuck into shot for good measure.

The ex-leadership rivals are now best of pals. "It was a big surprise," remarked Mr Pickrell. "I am a member of the Labour party and voted for Mr Corbyn. It was brilliant to see him," the 49-year-old said.

Mrs Pickrell, 43, added: "We think he is doing a brilliant job."

They then trundled off home to upload their snap to Facebook.



The Labour leader is seen sharing a joke with volunteers at Living Water cafe



A kiss from Jenny Davenport from Willenhall



Mr Corbyn chatting to Pc Deb Ashley

NEWS IN BRIEF

Elderly man hurt in blaze at flat

AN elderly man was left with burns to his arms and his feet following a fire at a flat in Walsall.

The resident had to be rescued from the first floor property in Rushall last Thursday.

Two fire crews, one from Walsall Station and another from Bloxwich, attended the home on Floyds Lane around 9pm. The property was described as significantly damaged and filled by smoke by ambulance crews who also arrived.

Jamie Arrowsmith from West Midlands Ambulance Service said the man also suffered smoke inhalation.

Housing firm is one of UK's best

A BLACK Country social housing company has been named one of the UK's best companies to work for.

Black Country Housing Group (BCHG), which owns 2,000 homes across the Black Country and Birmingham, has been named as one of the UK's best not-for-profit companies to work for in the annual Best Companies to Work For 2016 rankings, published by The Sunday Times.

Amanda Tomlinson, chief executive of BCHG, said: "We're honoured to have been recognised as one of the UK's best companies to work for."

MOT centre and shop in pipeline

CONTROVERSIAL plans for a MOT centre and a clothes charity shop at a former car showroom in Willenhall are poised to be approved despite dozens of complaints.

A petition with 31 signatures had been submitted to Walsall Council opposing Willenhall Motor Services' application.

The proposal to transform buildings on New Road, which had been vacant for years until recently, will go before today's planning committee.

New crackdown on problem parking

A FRESH crackdown on problem parkers has got under way outside a Great Barr school. Enforcement officers have been patrolling outside Grove Vale Primary School following concerns.

Officials were out on Friday as part of the crackdown set to continue along Monksfield Avenue. Neighbourhood police had received reports from residents concerned about inconsiderate parking.

Cars had been spotted parked around driveways, causing congestion.

Stamp fair all set

STREETLY Philatelic Society will be holding its annual stamp fair on Saturday, between 10am and 4.30pm at The Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Peasehey.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

£100k and you can land one on me, Jezza

FORMER Top Gear producer Oisín Tymon has just been awarded £100,000 in compensation for the rumpus where he took one for the team after Jeremy Clarkson was denied his steak dinner.

Now, of course, former Chronicle motoring writer Clarkson's actions were totally unacceptable, and Mr Tymon has quite rightly been kept on by the BBC.

Even so, it's quite a tidy little windfall, particularly given that Mr Tymon has suffered no financial hardship as a result of the incident.

To put it into context, when I took a pasting off two drunken louts while going about my business in Stourbridge 11 years ago this week, I got £1,800 in compensation for two broken ribs and a scar.

The moral is, I suppose, if you are going to get a hiding, best make sure it is at the hands of someone famous. And Jezza, please feel free to deck me one if you are passing.

□□□

LAST week it was reported that the world was finally catching up with me, with cassette tapes making a long overdue comeback.

Now it emerges that another of my great loves is being adopted by the London hipster crowd. As a former judge of the Banks's Pork Idol competition (check it out, it's true), I used to think KVE Golden Roast scratching were the height of Black Country sophistication. But my tastes have broadened. These days I'm quite partial to The Snaffling Pig Co's gourmet range sprinkled with cracked black pepper, or its sea salt and balsamic vinegar line.

Anyway, sales of pork scratchings are up nearly 11 per cent on last year, with the likes of Fortnum & Mason and Harrods jumping aboard the pig-wagon.

Just goes to show: Some people are dedicated followers of fashion. Others just lead.

□□□

NEVER understood the appeal of the Oscars. Or the Baftas, the Brits, or the Grammys for that matter.

If you like a film, you like it. You don't need some silver-haired critic on the other side of the Atlantic to validate your choice. And it's the same with music. If you're a lifelong fan of Showaddywaddy, that's fine. You don't listen to Adele because she's got an armful of tiny record players.

So who thought it would make it more interesting for this year's Oscar winners to drone on about politics?

Look, Lenny Capri, or whatever you call yourself, your job is to memorise the lines that someone else has written, not to bore the pants off us about global warming. It's the equivalent of the washing machine repair man offering tips about the Tokyo stock market. Stick to what you're good at.



Potty about history – Selwyn working on one of the projects



Selwyn Owens with museum chief executive Ian Walden in 2006



Selwyn's most satisfying project the Worker's Institute

Selwyn helped rebuild Black Country history

RICHARD GUTTRIDGE meets Selwyn Owens, who helped create the authentic look of the Black Country Living Museum

IT is one of the region's most iconic attractions which visitors come from around the world to see. But if it wasn't for Selwyn Owens, the Black Country Living Museum would not be what it is today.

Selwyn has retired after almost 30 years and while he is leaving the museum the mark he has left on it will last for generations.

Many of the famous buildings which line the museum's streets were reconstructed by Selwyn. As construction manager, he was responsible for making sure they were built without a hitch.

Selwyn joined what was still a fledgling museum in 1987, intrigued by the possibility of transforming the site into one of the region's greatest attractions.

He had previously worked for local authorities in Wolverhampton and Birmingham but decided the time was right for a new challenge. And it was a decision he didn't regret.

Mastermind

The construction boss would go on to mastermind many of the museum's most famous construction jobs, including the entire 1930s-style Birmingham Road – one of the museum's two main streets. He also led the reconstruction of Cradley Heath's Worker's Institute, the Victorian St James' School, which was originally in Salop Street, the Lime-light cinema from Brierley Hill and the traditional sweet shop.

He said: "The 30 years have absolutely flown past. I have been so busy so involved in these projects that I haven't had time to stop or stand still at all."

Seeing a project through from start to finish could be an exhausting challenge.

Of the majority of the buildings Selwyn, who



Black Country Museum Living Museum construction manager Selwyn Owens is retiring

is now 65, said: "I would draw them up, how they are going to look. It's a team game, it's not all down to me but my work involves the technical drawings, surveys, procurement of materials and the quality control of the building going up."

There is one building in particular that will always have a special place in his heart because of the peculiar way that it came to exist.

An American man had come to the Black Country to trace his family history and had learned his ancestors had once ran a sweet shop in Dudley called Cookies. He then ap-

proached the museum to see if they could recreate it."

Selwyn said: "We painstakingly replicated that shop from a suitable building after the curators at the time gave me a photograph."

"I remember in the front of that photo there was a man, his wife and a little girl. We managed to track her (the little girl) down and by then she was in her 80s and in a wheelchair. She broke down in tears and said 'it's exactly how I remember it'. I broke down in tears. That's the kind of job it is."

The museum's sweet shop building is based

on what was then a hairdressers in Oldbury. There are some buildings, including the mine entrance, which Selwyn has had to dream up himself based on research.

"You really have to sit down and think about the design, the materials, the position on the site and the relationship with other buildings," he said.

The job has thrown up many challenges over the years but there is one in particular that stands out.

He said: "We had problems with the Worker's Institute. We had put it out to an outside contractor to do it but it went into liquidation leaving us in a right mess."

"We managed to finish it and it was immensely satisfying to be able to pick it up when it had already started and finish it."

Because of the experience, the Worker's Institute remains among the projects he is most proud of.

Fruition

Although the Rolf Street Baths took 10 years to come to fruition, it was generally 12 to 18 months from when a building was first sketched by Selwyn to when it was completed at the museum.

He said: "The ways of doing things are a bit strange. It took me probably 18 months to change thought process. Having worked in local government and for a contractor it was all about doing the job as quickly as possible and making a profit. The change at the museum was that it was all about quality and authenticity. That was the main criteria."

Selwyn said he was proud to see how the museum had grown over the last three decades, particularly as he is a born and bred Dudley man.

"It's extremely satisfying. Every time I go back down there I get a real buzz from seeing all the buildings. People come from all over the world and it's great to see."

"I am immensely proud of what I have helped to achieve as part of a team forming the museum. It has been a labour of love but after 30 years it is time for a rest."

Although retired, Selwyn has already been coaxed into going back to the museum on a part-time basis to help with the next project.

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Grim reality of situation The lowest of cowards

PLEASE explain to me why anyone would choose to vote to remain in the EU. We pay billions of taxpayers' money to be in the EU but our own government refuses to pay for all our children to be vaccinated against the deadly disease meningitis, they said we are unable to afford it.

The reality of the situation is that a beautiful little girl died a dreadful death on Valentine's Day and now heart-breaking pictures showing a lovely little boy's last moments highlight the reality of the situation. Pull out of the EU and start looking after our own. How many more children need to die from this preventable disease?

L CASHMORE
Walsall

Longthorne show was spectacular

I WOULD like to say how much my husband and I enjoyed the Joe Longthorne concert at Wednesbury Town Hall. We love Joe and could not believe he was performing locally, so went along to see him.

Joe has been ill on and off the last few years and looked a little bit frail on stage but his voice is unaffected and he sang wonderfully. I particularly liked his lovely rendition of Don Black's 'If I Never Sing Another Song' which reduced me to tears.

I must mention the support acts at this show which included talented local singer Louise Roberts and a male singer from Tamworth called Glen Chevannes.

I have seen Louise before and always enjoy her show, she is excellent. I have not seen Glen Chevannes before but was very impressed with how professional he is. Thank you to everyone at Wednesbury Celebrates for giving us a fantastic West End standard show.

A WATERS
Wednesbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Don't be distracted from local debate

THE date of the EU referendum is set for June 23. The outcome will be vital for the UK so there has to be full debate.

However the Tory party, both nationally and locally, along with media, seem happy for the hype about EU debate to divert all attention from what they are doing.

I would urge Walsall residents and voters to stay focused – until at least after local elections on May 5 – on what the Tories are planning for the council. The cuts being proposed are wrong as they target the weakest and poorest sections in Walsall.

While severe cuts are inevitable due to the grant cuts being imposed on Walsall and other councils by Tory central government, there is an alternative proposed budget. This would safeguard the seven libraries threatened with closure, retain area panels and secure the CAB budget – although requiring many changes to the way things operate. It has to be a balanced budget to be legal so there do have to be cuts to other areas.

The result will determine how things are for next two years. Don't be distracted from the local debate – the direction for Walsall Council is at stake!

ROY SHEWARD
Aldridge

UK must be clear in intentions

THE date for the vote regarding the UK's EU membership has now been set.

Prime Minister David Cameron is urging us to accept the reforms he has recently negotiated.

The people of Scotland have said they want to stay in and the other countries want the UK to stay with them.

There can be no doubts, that despite the damage to our economy, the effect upon the other countries and the destabilisation of the world's finances.

Sitting on the doorstep, like some naughty, spoiled, sulking child is not the positive way. We need to act as adults, sit at the table with others, talk to deal with the problems of a forever changing world. The UK needs to be bold, and clear in its intentions.

Our voting for remaining in will reaffirm our commitment to build confidence and move forward.

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Brothers tried to con pensioner over 'work'

A PAIR of conman brothers from Walsall and Great Wyrley tried to dupe a 98-year-old woman out of £300 after they falsely claimed to have carried out work to her home.

Crimea and Michael Price targeted the pensioner who lived with her dementia-stricken brother-in-law in Sutton Coldfield.

By Alex Ross

Along with another man, John McDonald, the Price brothers arrived on the quiet cul-de-sac in a four-wheel drive truck. After trying several doors, McDonald, who has since gone on the run, and Michael Price knocked on the door of Mrs Evans.

They told their victim they had carried out work to her neighbour's gutter for £800.

Claiming to have also cleaned Mrs Evans' gutters and repaired a tile, they demanded she cough up £300.

Car salesman Michael Price, 21, of Willenhall Lane, Walsall, and father-of-two Crimea Price, 33, of Long Lane, Great Wyrley, pleaded guilty to fraud at Birmingham Crown Court.

Crimea Price, it was heard, had received a suspended sentence in 2012 for an almost identical offence.

Suspended

He was jailed for 14 months.

Younger brother Michael, previously of good character, was jailed for 47 weeks, suspended for two years.

Recorder Miles Watkins told the pair: "You, together with Mr McDonald, absent from the dock where he rightly should be, went with the intention to obtain money for work you had not undertaken."

"In Blakesley Close you went to a number of properties, in particular the property in which Mrs Evans lived, she was 98 and lived there with her 95-year-old brother-in-law."

"On seeing how old and obviously vulnerable they were you proceeded."

"In so proceeding you were working together with Mr McDonald to obtain money you had no business demanding from anybody."

"It was said to the victim

work had been done on her guttering and roof. That was clearly a lie."

Mr Bernard Linnemann, prosecuting, told the court another neighbour, whose door had been knocked by the group, phoned police, suspicious of their behaviour. Officers from West Midlands Police arrived while McDonald, his son, and Michael Price were still in Mrs Evans' home.

He told the court: "She took out £100 which was all she had in her purse to be had. In fact she did not (hand it over) and it was left on the table."

Just then as police arrived Michael Price attempted to escape by climbing over a fence and removing some of his clothes to change his appearance. He was arrested in a nearby street shortly after. Crimea Price was arrested from inside the pick-up truck which had been blocked in by a police car.

Recorder Watkins said: "There was clearly some planning involved in you going out that day. This was not opportunistic in the sense it is normally meant. The sums of money are modest bit when considering the impact I have to look at the vulnerability of your victim."

Mr Alexandra Cracknell, defending Michael Price, said the he worked full time with his father and had never been in trouble before. She described the incident as "out of character."

Nathan Cook, defending Crimea Price, said he had recently been reunited with his wife and two children after a period of separation.

He said: "The biggest blow to him is he will have to spend time in custody away from them."

Wheely big deal for Dudley all set to roll out

THE largest ever big wheel seen in the Black Country is set to roll into Dudley next month. Business bosses in the town hope the towering 114ft attraction will help to increase footfall for the month it is there.

The 114ft DY Eye ferris wheel will transport visitors into the air and offer panoramic views of Dudley and beyond. The high-rise spectacular has been organised by the Dudley Business Group, Dudley Market Traders Ltd and Dudley Council. Len Lenihan, managing director of Dudley Market Traders Ltd and a member of the Dudley Business Group, said: "We

are so excited to be bringing such a high-quality attraction to Dudley town centre to further boost our town's appeal to shoppers, visitors and investors."

It will open for open for business on Stone Street Square, opposite Dudley Museum and Art Gallery on Sunday, March 12.

It will remain in place for nearly a month, throughout the Easter period, until Sunday, April 10. It will be closed on Easter Sunday, March 27.

The wheel can take a maximum of 144 passengers in 24 gondolas and will be lit up at night. It will take three days just to install it.

Hazardous substance fears shut park



Fire extinguisher powder was poured over the grounds and equipment of the park on Pelsall Common

A VILLAGE play area was forced to close when fire extinguisher powder was sprayed over equipment.

The vandalism attack at the park on Pelsall Common was described by a councillor as 'the new craze'.

Officers had planned to close the park for four days over fears the powder was toxic. When it was discovered that the powder was from fire extinguishers, a team of officers jet washed the area which meant it could be reopened the same day.

Outraged community leaders have said similar vandalism has taken place at other parks, including in High Heath and Rushall. Pelsall ward member Councillor Marco Longhi said: "It is to be deplored. Is it astonishingly foolish behaviour by a group of young people to prevent even younger people gaining access to the facility which is paid for by taxpayers' money."

"It is really, really sad to see this mindless behaviour by a very small group who spoil it for everyone else."

Fellow Pelsall representative Councillor Garry Perry was one of the first on the scene after been contacted by a resident.

He tried to remove the substance himself before seeking the help of officers. Councillor Perry said: "It is a very unfortunate incident and things like this do not happen a lot in Pelsall."

"It is just such a silly thing to do."

"It was probably intended as a bit of fun but it has created three or four hours of work for a team of officers."

He added: "I have been told extinguishers have been found at other parks including High Heath and Rushall but I don't know whether that is linked to this."

"Apparently it is a new craze now with people getting hold of them and spraying them everywhere."

"They are very easily accessible."

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Hill The Opticians, which dates back to the 1970s

Boots' focus on providing best service



Staff at the shop cut the ribbon in Bloxwich High Street



Boots Opticians, which offers the latest in frames, lenses and optical services

THERE are new sights to see in Bloxwich High Street as Hill the Opticians has been converted to Boots Opticians.

Despite the changeover, franchise directors Parvinder Singh Malhi and Kuldeep Singh Kandola promise their customers and patients that they will be offering the same personal service, 'but with a better offer underpinning our focus'.

There is the same great team looking after customers as before, with a reputation built over decades from when the shop first opened in the 1970s as Michael Hill Opticians, then becoming just Hill the Opticians. Parvinder says: "We commit to enrich the life of every person. We are a health-led optician, yet we care about a whole lot more."

This is the first time Boots Opticians and a franchise partner have teamed up to buy an independent business to convert.

Kuldeep explains: "That was very exciting and daunting but with the

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

staff we know we can become a success.

"We currently run the Boots Opticians franchise in Cannock and have done so very successfully for four years.

"We built that store on trust and professionalism and we hope to bring those attributes to Bloxwich."

Parvinder says: "When we looked to buy Hill the Opticians, we knew the purpose of the team matched the Boots Opticians purpose. So we knew this would be an easy transition for the team and our patients." He added that Boots will offer diabetic screening for the Birmingham and Walsall area, as well as a triage service for the local eye hospitals.

So why should people consider visiting the opticians?

Well, it not only helps identify potential problems with your eyesight before they develop but also provides a window to your overall health. That's because eyes can

give an early indication of common health problems, like high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Checking children's eyesight is particularly crucial.

Did you know 80 per cent of their learning is through sight? Checking their eyes can also help prevent conditions like a lazy eye developing.

How often should eye checks take place?

Even if you can see clearly, having an eye check at least every two years is recommended for adults because eyes change over time.

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Trim trail equipment installed at play area

NEW playground equipment has been installed at a Black Country – much to the delight of local councillors.

The new trim trail in Kings Hill Park, Darlaston is the latest piece of the equipment to be added.

It was put in after funding was secured from the Jebron site nearby, which has been converted into 55 houses and 12 flats under a scheme to increase housing and improve the area's image.

Originally, they were not going to make a monetary contribution but after a request from Councillor Paul Bott was made at a planning meeting, they agreed to put the money forward.

Independent ward councillors Paul and Chris Bott said they were pleased with the new equipment which consists of a metal frame and wobbly logs to walk across.

Fantastic

Councillor Chris Bott said: "We are very pleased to be able to secure the funding for the new trim trail in Darlaston."

"We have been able to provide a facility for the area and to see that it is already being well used is fantastic."

"It is great to be able to make the facilities better."

Another trim trail was previously installed at The Great Bridge Road playing fields in Bilston, between Leekes furniture store and the Travellers Rest pub.

Despite technically being in Bilston, The Great Bridge Road playing fields fall under the remit of Walsall Council and in the Darlaston South ward.

They had requested for it to go on the playing fields because it had been neglected since it was taken over by Walsall Council from Wolverhampton years ago.



Councillors Paul and Christine Bott try out some of the new trim trail equipment

Village post office refurb

A POST office will shut for two weeks while it undergoes a makeover. Pelsall Post Office will boast a new open plan layout and longer opening hours when it reopens.

Bill payment, banking, benefits, travel money, postage, home shopping returns and a 'local collect' service will form part of the new look.

The High Street branch, which will close from March 5 to March 18, will also offer a selection of holiday currencies.

Customers will be directed to use services in Aldridge and Blakenall while the refurbishment is being carried out.

Area manager Caroline Pritchard said: "We are confident that this vibrant new-style Post Office at the heart of the local community will meet customer needs."

Opening hours will increase by an extra five hours following the revamp with the branch staying open from 9am to 5.30pm, Monday to Saturday.

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Gillian McDermott with Colour Sgt Greg Hedges and Watchman V



Councillor Peter Hughes, who also a committee member



Treasurer Keith Jackson, Christie and a bust from the displays

Centre pays homage to the Staffie

ONE of the Black Country's favourite dog breeds, the Staffordshire Bull Terrier is being celebrated with the reopening of a museum at a new location.

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Heritage Centre first opened in 2005 at Wednesbury's Old Post Office with the aim of disproving the

breed's stereotype as ferocious and dangerous.

But having been asked to leave the premises two years ago the charity behind the centre were forced to move the exhibits into storage.

Bosses searched desperately for a new home and last year struck a deal to lease a former health centre in Albert Street, Wednesbury.

After renovating the building so it complied

with the required standards to welcome visitors, the exhibition has now re-opened.

Gillian McDermott, member of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Exhibition Group, said: "It is a big relief that we are out of storage and again able to display our wonderful exhibits."

"The project is all about changing perceptions of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier."

"They are a real family dog. It is only when

they are put in the wrong hands there is problems." The exhibition contains a variety of memorabilia collected from all over the world including books from Australia and badges from the Czech Republic.

Crufts

There is also a prized collection of 145 copies of 'The Stafford' magazine dating back

to the 1940s. The exhibition will open most Saturdays and at other times by appointment. The exhibition group will also be showing at Crufts in March.

Gillian, who has six Staffordshire Bull Terriers of her own, said: "If we can get one convert who didn't like Staffordshire Bull Terriers before and we can get them to see them differently, than we will have done our job."



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Action vow over blighted property



Rubbish dumped at the property in Tennyson Avenue, Willenhall, has prompted the warning from councillors

ENFORCEMENT action will be taken against any new owners of a property blighted by fly-tipping once it has sold, councillors have warned.

Walsall Council said it was the responsibility of the land or homeowners to clear the rubbish that has been left to pile up outside the terraced house in Tennyson Road, Willenhall for more than a month. It is now attracting vermin.

Household waste, appliances and furniture have also been left outside the privately-owned property. The house, which had been left unoccupied for 'some time', was up for auction last week through Bigwood Chartered Surveyors.

Deputy council leader Adrian Andrew said: "It's the responsibility of the land or homeowner to clear rubbish from the property. In this particular case, our environmental health officers have been unable to establish the whereabouts of the owner who was last known to be at this address in June 2013.

"The property has been unoccupied for a long time and the council has taken informal action to seek the removal of the waste. The council will therefore seek to pursue enforcement action against the new owner, who will become liable to remove this waste."

Thefts fuel response by police with patrol rise

POLICE are to fill up their tanks at a supermarket petrol station - in a bid to deter thieves in Willenhall.

The town's Morrisons store has been identified as a hotspot for crime. Now police have been asked to refuel their patrol cars there.

Bosses at the Middle Piece Way store have called on West Midlands Police to provide

a greater presence at the site following an increase in bilking, although Morrisons has downgraded its own security provision due to an 'economic downturn', according to the force.

In a Willenhall South policing report, Sgt Kelvin Rowlands declared the store as a 'hotspot' for crime. He said: "The analysis data shows Middle Piece Way to be the beat hotspot. This area is predominantly dominated by two repeat caller locations namely Morrison's supermarket and Morrison's petrol station.

"As a result of this analysis, the area received a great deal of high profile police presence, both response attending to calls for service, diary car appointments for shop lifting/bilking issues

and neighbourhood team support knowing this to be a hotspot and hot grid.

"As part of the bilking patrol strategy the local policing unit are encouraged to refuel marked police vehicles at this location to provide additional reassurance.

"The local neighbourhood team will continue to provide high visibility patrols both within the stores and externally."

"Efforts have been made to undertake dialogue with the store owners with view to reducing incidents, but it has cited that high volumes of customers and increased thefts together with economic downturn for the store owners has resulted in less security provision."

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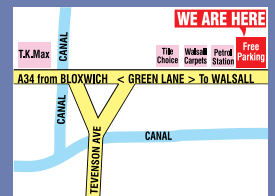
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Memories are sought as church marks 50th

HISTORICAL photos and memorabilia are being sought as part of a church's 50th anniversary year.

St Andrew's Church in Great Wyrley has planned two days of celebrations to mark its half century, with further events planned throughout the year.

Great Wyrley History Society will lead an illustrated talk around Quinton Shopping Precinct on April 16.

On the same day, from 10am to 3pm, an open day will be held at the Hilton Lane building.

The event will include displays, photographs, written memories and memorabilia focusing on how the church was built and changes to the structure over the last 50 years.

Worshippers have also been invited to create a programme of events throughout the day where refreshments will be served.

A birthday celebration service with the Archdeacon of Lichfield, Simon Baker, will take place on April 17.

Fair

Church warden Melanie Maloney said: "We want people to help us by searching through family photographs and memorabilia of weddings, baptisms and any events or celebrations, which have been held at St Andrew's over the past 50 years."

Further events include a church fair and Back to Church service, running alongside the usual community services, which are held on the second Sunday of each month.

The year of events will end with the St Andrew's Day Celebrations on November 27.

Anyone with memorabilia to share is asked to send it in an envelope, with their name, address and brief note of the event, to the Reverend Graham Horner at The Vicarage, 1 Cleves Crescent, Cheslyn Hay, WS6 7LR.

Information can also be handed to Mrs Maloney or passed on during any of the

Duo Rome the streets



Stanley Harrison, left, of Great Wyrley, and Bob Drew, from Bloxwich, gear up for Rome half marathon

TWO pensioners are jetting out to Rome to compete in the city's half marathon.

Retired Stanley Harrison, from Great Wyrley, and Bob Drew, from Bloxwich, have agreed to tackle the 13.1 mile course on March 13 in aid of two charities, Heart Care Walsall and the Cannock and Great Wyrley Stroke Association.

The 65-year-old both run with Sneyd Striders Road Running Club. Mr Harrison said: "As we're both in

our 66th year and have reached retirement age we wanted to do something a bit different.

"We're hoping to raise as much money as possible for the two charities and it would be nice if we reached £1,000."

The pensioners will be flying out on March 11 and will meet up with about 20 members of Drancy Running Club in Paris, which is twinned with Sneyd Striders. To donate, call Mr Harrison on 07780 006830.

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PANDÖRA

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Owen Richards presents the cup to captain James McGlynn, as the rest of the winning St Mary's team looks on



Joel Richards

FOUR teams came together for a Gaelic football tournament in memory of their former teammate, Tunisia terror attack victim Joel Richards.

Organisers said they wanted to keep Joel's spirit alive and turn it into an annual event.

The 19-year-old, former pupil at Stuart Bathurst School in Wednesbury, died in last year's mass shooting in Sousse along with his uncle Adrian Evans, of Bilston, and grandfather Patrick Evans, from Wednesbury.

Joel was a well-respected and talented

player for Birmingham's James Connolly's Gaelic Football Club. They took part alongside Four Masters of Coventry, Warwickshire team St Mary's and St Joseph's from Derby.

The final was held in Erdington, with Joel's brother Owen presenting the prize cup to winners St Mary's.

Tracey Donoghue, who was part of the committee for the tournament, said: "It went really well and there was a good turn out of players for both matches."

"Joel's brother Owen, his mom Suzy and grandmother were all present for Owen to present the cup. The amount of support we've received has been fantastic."

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NEW IN STOCK - 3 PIECE SUITES



Feeding the poor on Calcutta Maidan is another of the images contained in the album

Snapshots of life in globetrotting family to go under hammer

MEMORY LANE

By Richard Guttridge

A SERIES of incredible images documenting a family's life lift the lid on an unseen world – and have turned up in Walsall Wood more than a century after being taken.

The collection of photographs and postcards were presented to auctioneers Hansons at a valuation day.

The seller, who lived in the area and asked to remain anonymous, explained she had worked for an elderly lady who left her images to thank her for her hard work. She was given four photograph and postcard albums containing pictures from all around the world dating from around 1900.

The owner is identified in the albums as Alice M Findon who built up a series of images sent to her from globetrotting relatives.

Huddled

One family member, named only as George, served in the Army, which saw him end up in India. He was based in Alhalabad with his regiment and sent back pictures to an Edith Findon, possibly his wife.

Crowds are seen huddled together in one image entitled 'Feeding the poor on the Calcutta Maidan'.

An image of George himself is also included, sitting in a wooden chair in full uniform, the photograph addressed to Soho Road in Handsworth.

It is not known how the images came to be in Alice's possession. Stunning pictures from Canada, China and Japan also form part of the album. Some are in vivid colour not normally associated with photographs from the time. One is a striking portrayal of Japanese Geisha girls which manages to be both grainy and incredibly clear. Another shows a woman being carried in a sedan chair.

In one, an Indian woman, appar-



The incredible image of Chickasaw Indian Squaw 'Auntie Kate', aged 114

ently 114 years old, is standing outside a teepee wrapped in a blanket. The ship The Emperor of Japan is also seen lurking ominously in a Singapore harbour in another image.

Others were sent by Alice's brother Walter Findon who travelled to America in search of fame. During his stay in California his photographs and postcards offered a view of what early 20th century America was like.

The San Pedro Harbour and a crowded beach in Long Beach with

everyone wearing full Edwardian dress were among images he sent back. According to Alice, Walter emigrated to the States where he starred in silent movies.

Head of media for Hansons Emma Carberry said the collection was unique and delivered a fascinating insight into barely seen parts of the globe at this time. They go on sale at an auction between March 17 and 19 and are expected to sell for between £150 and £200.



A coloured photo of a woman being carried in a sedan chair



Grainy but clear image of Japanese Geisha girls



The ship The Emperor of Japan at Singapore

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Look who's Poppins in

Interview – Page 21



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Of Mice And Men



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The acclaimed production by director Roxana Silbert of John Steinbeck's drama set during America's Great Depression, returns to the region after a successful recent run in Birmingham. Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

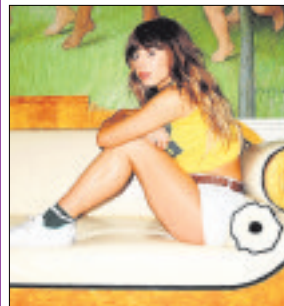
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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Zizi a practically perfect Poppins

IT'S her dream job. Zizi Strallen grew up watching Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke star in the iconic 1964 movie version of *Mary Poppins*. It transported her to another world – and she didn't ever imagine she'd one day land that role.

"I watched the film and read the book. I became completely obsessed by it. And then when somebody like Cameron Mackintosh says 'do you want to do this?' you just go."

The spectacular travelling production will have a six-week run at Birmingham's Hippodrome from Wednesday (March 9), playing to almost 100,000 people. Zizi says it's as much fun for her as it is for the sell-out audiences.

"We are so well looked after here and the company is absolutely amazing. It's not just about the people on stage, it's also the people who help me fly every night."

"The work that goes into this production is absolutely immense. We change venues and think: 'How on earth are they going to fit all of this kit into this theatre?' But they do. It never fails to impress."

Zizi is an accomplished dancer and has enjoyed working with Matthew Bourne, who has brought numerous ballets to Birmingham.

Sisters

Theatre is in her genes. Both her parents appeared in *Cats*, her aunt is Bonnie Langford and her two elder sisters are actresses Summer and Scarlett Strallen – Scarlett played *Mary Poppins* in London and on Broadway.

When Zizi isn't tripping the light fantastic or making magic as *Mary Poppins*, she writes her own scripts.

"It's a hobby, when I have time. I write comedy sketches. Once I've done everything I can do on stage, I would love to write professionally."

"I kind of started it because I was a big eavesdropper when I was out having coffee in London. I write scripts that include lots of the funny stuff that I've overheard. People don't realise I'm listening and writing it all down."

She says *Mary Poppins* has lots of laugh-out-loud lines. "I really enjoyed finding the comedy and the wit in the script. Some of *Mary's* lines are so witty and cheeky."



Sister act – rising star Zizi Strallen is following her sibling Summer's steps as *Mary Poppins* on stage photo: Matt Crockett



Cleo atcha in Thriller Live

THE touring version of West End hit *Thriller Live* is coming to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre for a six-day run from Monday.

The concert-style tribute to the genius of Michael Jackson has become a global phenomenon, taking 150 million dollars at the box office – half of that from its seven-year London run and UK tours.

Later this year the 2,901st performance of the show at the Lyric Theatre will see *Thriller Live* overtake *Evita* to become the 17th longest running West End musical.

Producer Paul Walden said: "This is proof positive that the music of Michael Jackson is still one of the hottest tickets on the planet. We are privileged to continue his musical legacy in *Thriller Live*, and to have taken it to theatres, concert halls and arenas in 32 countries around the world."

"But we are certainly not resting on our laurels – this brand new version of the show has four new songs, a new opening, new production elements including new video, new costumes and special effects."

The arrival of the show in Brum will also mark a homecoming for one of its current stars, Birmingham-born Cleo Higgins. She is the former lead singer of sibling pop trio *Cleopatra*, who enjoyed a hit with *Cleopatra's Theme* (from debut album *Comin' Atcha!*) alongside her sisters Yonah and Zainam in 1998.

Cleo reached the semi-finals of *The Voice UK* in 2013, choosing Will.i.am as coach after all four turned in the blind audition. Now she celebrates the music of Michael Jackson.

It's Blockheads and touring Turin Brakes

KEY gigs include a concert by the late Ian Dury's band *The Blockheads*, now fronted by Derek 'The Draw' Hussey, at Bilston's Robin 2 venue tomorrow (Fri).

The line up includes Chaz Jankel, Norman Watt-Roy and Mick Gallagher, so expect the distinctive blend of music hall and funk with hits such as *Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick*. Support from Tipton's *The Tramways*.

Turin Brakes, who recently released their seventh studio album, *Lost Property*, are in concert at Birmingham's Glee Club, at Birmingham's Arcadian Centre, on Tuesday. Funky US rock band Dan Reed Network play the Robin 2 on Wednesday.

Painful memories as son plays his father

ACTOR Matthew Zajac plays his own father in *The Tailor Of Inverness*, which explores the elderly Pole's memories of his horrific experiences during the Second World War, that led him to leave Poland for Scotland.

Written by Zajac, this story has added poignancy given the current refugee crisis. It is presented at Birmingham Repertory Theatre venue The Door, in the Centenary Square complex, from tonight (Thu) to Saturday.

London Classic Theatre stage Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party* at Wolverhampton University's Arena Theatre, in Wulfruna Street, tomorrow and Saturday.

X Factor winner to star in Grand panto

TICKETS are already on sale for this year's pantomime at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Aladdin, with star singer Joe McElerry in the title role.

The X Factor winner will be joined by TV presenter, former *Strictly* and *Emmerdale* star Lisa Riley as the Slave of the Ring in the show at the Lichfield Street theatre from December 10 to January 22.

Also joining the panto line up is Black Country comedy character Doreen, as the laziest Empress that China has ever seen. Work shy Doreen Tipton, played by actress Gill Jordan, became an internet sensation and has featured in her own movie.

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CHOICE



Lee Mead

Casualty

(BBC1, 9pm)

Part two of two. In the aftermath of the incident that saw agency nurse Diana receive a shock from a defibrillator, Lofty must decide how to explain what occurred in the Emergency Department's official statement. Dylan tells him clarify it was an accident, but Lofty must decide whether he himself should carry the burden. Meanwhile, Cal falls while looking after Emilie, and the pair are admitted to the ED, forcing Ethan to face his birth-mother for the first time. When it becomes clear that Emilie has pneumonia, and doesn't have long to live, Ethan and Cal must make a life-changing decision together. Medical drama, starring Lee Mead.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Cycling. 2.00 Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v Japan. 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 Dynamic: Magician Impossible. 5.50 BBC News.

6.00 Regional Programme.

6.10 The Getaway Car. Dermot O'Leary hosts as another five duos arrive in the South African countryside to put their nerves, driving and communication skills, and ultimately their relationships to the test. This time, sisters Jodie and Aimi take to the wheel of "Little Miss Daisy". Hazard Highway's flowery VW Golf, and "rock gods in the making" Binny and Neil from Brighton also take to the track. Ex-HGV driver Dave and his partner Paula arrive from the Outer Hebrides, and lifelong pals Pete and Richard from South Yorkshire put their friendship to the test on the course. Plus, London-based Thai kickboxing duo Talibah and Ami begin to wonder whether they have made the right choice as Talibah, who only passed her driving test just over a year ago, settles into the driver's seat.

7.00 The Voice UK. The would-be stars enter the second and final round of the Battle phase, in which the remaining artists from each team must take to the stage to secure their place in the Knockouts. As Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson seek to reduce the numbers in their respective groups down to eight singers each, the contestants must prepare themselves for another flurry of vocal showdowns, with their own superstar coaches deciding which of them will be bowing out of the competition early.

9.00 Casualty. Part two of two. Lofty must make a statement about the defibrillator incident, and Ethan faces his birth-mother for the first time when she and Cal are admitted to the ED.

9.50 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin presents.

10.00 BBC News: Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day.

11.50 Film: The Recruit. (2003)

1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.45 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Film: After Tonight. (1933) 7.15 Film: The Quatermass Experiment. (1955) 8.35 Film: Dean Spanley. (2008) 10.10 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 11.10 Natural World. (R) 12.00 Rick Stein's India. (R) 1.00 The Best Dishes Ever. (R) 1.30 Alfred Hitchcock: Talking Pictures. (R) 2.05 Film: Notorious. (1946) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Cary Grant. 3.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v Japan. 5.30 Flog It! (R) 6.00 Gardeners' World. Horticultural ideas and advice. (R)

6.30 Back in Time for the Weekend. The Ashby-Hawkins family enters the 1990s, a decade where new technology starts to dominate their leisure time. Twelve year-old Seth finally gets his hands on a Game Boy and games console, while the arrival of the internet and a mobile phone marks the start of how many spend their spare time now. Steph and Rob try out line-dancing, and fitness star Mr Motivator puts them through their paces. Tommy Walsh and Linda Barker also turn up to help the family give the house and garden a 90s makeover. (R)

7.30 Queen Victoria's Children. The second episode focuses on the monarch's relationship with her daughters, revealing how she clung to and bullied the princesses, as well as arranging who they should marry. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Jones buys black-market pigeons from wheeler-dealer Walker – but is horrified to discover the birds were taken from Trafalgar Square. Comedy, starring Clive Dunn and James Beck. (R)

9.00 Stag. Johnnies' stag party is besieged in the home of the sinister gamekeeper, until Christoph, a suspiciously helpful gate-crasher, arrives and offers to lead everyone to safety.

10.00 Film: Dom Hemingway. (2013) Premiere. A safe cracker released from prison goes to the South of France to collect a debt and reconnect with his daughter. Comedy crime drama, starring Jude Law and Emilia Clarke.

11.30 Line of Duty. The return of the crime thriller about a police anti-corruption unit. DI Lindsay Denton comes under suspicion after a police convoy is ambushed. (R)

12.30 Line of Duty. (R) 1.30 Film: Lebanon. (2009) 2.55 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. 6.15 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Signed Stories. (R) 6.55 Sooty. (R) 7.00 Super 4. (R) 7.15 Looped. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. 8.30 Scrambled!: Jessie. 9.05 Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) 9.25 Murder. She Wrote. (R) 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 11.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.15 ITV News: Weather. 12.24 Regional Programme. 12.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.30 Judge Rinder. (R) 2.30 Tipping Point. (R) 3.35 Film: The Spy Who Loved Me. (1977) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.

6.00 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.10 ITV News: Weather.

6.30 New You've Been Framed! More comedy mishaps.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. Hollywood actress Kate Hudson joins the entertainer duo as this week's Guest Announcer, and Bear Grylls receives the surprise of his life when Ant and Dec go Undercover – in total darkness. Stephen Mulhern presides over Ant vs Dec, in which the pair must sing for their lives, and the plot thickens in the second instalment of Who Shot Simon Cowell?, with David Walliams becoming the latest suspect. Plus, Brit Award-winning singer Jess Glynne takes part in the End of the Show Show, and another lucky audience member is selected to play out the Ads.

8.30 Take Me Out. A musical theatre performer from Mansfield, a City trader, a Blackpool car salesman and an account executive from Milton Keynes enter the "love lift". Last in the series.

10.00 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined in the studio by Richard Gere, Roisin Conaty, Jack Black and Motown founder Berry Gordy, who introduces a performance by the cast of Motown the Musical.

11.00 ITV News: Weather.

11.20 Film: Never Say Never Again.

(1983) Action adventure, with Sean Connery.

1.35 Jackpot247. 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 Freeride World Tour. 7.30 The Grid. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 The Morning Line. 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The Superhumans Show. 11.30 The Simpsons. (R) 12.00 The Simpsons. (R) 12.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Doncaster and Newbury. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 Come Dine with Me. It is the final night in Manchester and glamorous goth Maria is serving her twist on Asian cuisine, which manages to impress daddy's girl Sasha. (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales travel along the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Union Canal in a coast-to-coast adventure from Edinburgh to Glasgow, taking in Scotland's highest aqueduct and longest canal tunnel, as well as striking examples of 21st-century engineering and monumental sculptures. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. The actress travels through the South Downs and the Weald of Sussex and Kent, reliving the Cuckfield Donkey Races and delving into the life of Rudyard Kipling. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: The Bourne Legacy. (2012) The leaders of a secret government agency plan to eliminate several agents as part of a cover-up when they face having their dark secrets exposed. One of the assassins targeted is able to evade his fate and go on the run – but his escape is threatened by his dependence on drugs to boost his physical and mental capabilities. Spy thriller sequel, with Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz and Edward Norton.

11.40 Film: Seven Psychopaths. (2012) A writer turns to two crooks for advice about a script, but ends up in danger when they kidnap a gangster's dog. Comedy thriller, with Colin Farrell and Sam Rockwell.

1.40 Hollyoaks. (R) 3.50 Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) 4.45 Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 8.55 The Fairly OddParents. 9.30 The Saturday Show Live. 11.30 Film: Star Trek: The Motion Picture. (1979) 2.00 Criminally Funny: Caught in the Act. (R) 3.00 Now That's Funny! (R) 4.00 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) 5.00 Granmas Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.

Documentary series giving an insight into the world of debt collection. Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy try to collect a debt from a technology company in Middlesex – and with the director nowhere to be seen, the office manager does everything she can to prove the business is no longer trading. Stewart McCracken and Elmor Victor face a heart-breaking house repossession in Merseyside, where two landlords are forced to evict a tenant recovering from a brain tumour which has cost him his job and income. (R)

7.00 World War II in Colour. The war in the Pacific in the spring of 1943, when America went on the offensive against Japan, launching a two-pronged attack to drive their forces back. (R)

8.00 The Gadget Show. Jon Bentley tests a product intended to replace both a laptop and tablet, while in the US, Yue Xu visits CES, the world's biggest technology exhibition. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches, which include Burnley v Blackburn Rovers.

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals and talking points from League One and League Two, as well as a look at the latest league tables.

10.30 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A bikie gang member's mutilated body is found in a park, and Stabler fights to prove his partner's innocence when Benson is linked to the murder by DNA evidence. (R)

11.20 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 I Want That Wedding! (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Human Planet 8.00 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures 9.00 Trapped 10.45 Doris Day: Virgin Territory 11.45 Sing's Musicals 12.45 Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies 1.45 Top of the Pops: 1981 2.25 Top of the Pops: 1981 2.45 Doris Day: Virgin Territory 3.45 Close

ITV2

11.15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. 12.45 The Almost Impossible Gameshow 1.45 Catchphrase 2.25 Scorpion 3.20 Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) 5.10 Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) 7.10 Film: Hulk (2003) 10.00 Take Me Out – The Gossip 11.00 Family Guy 11.55 American Dad! 12.50 The Keith Lemon Sketch Show 1.20 Ibiza Weekender 2.10 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands 3.00 Teleshopping

ITV3

12.25 A Touch of Frost 2.30 Wycliffe 3.45 Jane Eyre 6.00 Midsomer Murders 10.00 A Touch of Frost 11.20 Blue Murder 1.40 Doctor in the House 2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4

11.35 Pawn Stars 12.30 Live Darts: UK Open. Coverage of the second day at the Butlins Minehead Resort. 5.00 Storage Wars: Texas 6.00 Pawn Stars 7.00 Live Darts: UK Open. Further coverage of the second day at the Butlins Minehead Resort. 11.00 Film: The Hitcher (2007) 12.40 Hell on Wheels 1.35 Minder 2.35 Movies Now 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

E4

11.00 How I Met Your Mother 12.00 The Jump 1.00 The Goldbergs 3.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 4.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: The Inbetweeners Movie (2011) 11.00 Tattoo Fixers 12.00 Gogglebox 2.10 Virtually Famous 2.50 Tattoo Fixers 3.45 How I Met Your Mother 4.30 Revenge

Film4

11.00 Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) 1.00 Leap Year (2010) 3.05 True Grit (1969) 5.00 Avatar (2009) A soldier uses a genetically engineered body to help an alien tribe fight off a corrupt mining corporation. James Cameron's sci-fi adventure, with Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana. 9.00 Les Misérables (2012) A former prisoner pursued by a fanatical police inspector in post-revolutionary France is drawn into a political uprising. Musical, with Hugh Jackman and Russell Crowe. 12.05 Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (2010) 2.05 Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo (1999) 3.55 Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Smoke Screen, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A TV reporter finds herself thrown into the midst of a murder investigation when she wakes up next to a dead body and cannot remember a thing about the night before. Fighting to prove her innocence, she must use all of her investigative skills to get to the bottom of the killing. Drama, with Jaime Pressly. (2010)

TUESDAY

Forget Me Not, BBC1, 11.45pm

A teenager about to graduate from high school has put a horrific incident in her childhood behind her. When her friends begin disappearing, she is forced to face up to her past misdeeds, as she discovers an angry spirit is seeking revenge on them for a crime they committed as children. Horror, starring Carly Schroeder and Cody Linley. (2009)

WEDNESDAY

Confessions of a Shopaholic, BBC1, 11.45pm

Aspiring fashion journalist Rebecca Bloomwood accepts a position writing for a financial magazine. As she sets the publishing world alight with her unique brand of consumer advice, Rebecca is forced to confront her own purchasing habits and begins to question whether rampant spending spree is the way to true happiness. Comedy, starring Isla Fisher, Hugh Dancy, Krysten Ritter and Joan Cusack. (2009)



Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, Friday, BBC2, 11.30pm

THURSDAY

The Mystery Cruise, Channel 5, 3.20pm

During a three-day murder-mystery game on board a cruise ship to promote the release of her bestselling mother's latest novel, a private investigator and her best friend suspect that a real killer may be on the loose. Thriller, starring Gail O'Grady. (2013)

FRIDAY

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, BBC2, 11.30pm

An antiques dealer in a Deep South town kills his gay lover, claiming his actions were in self-defence. A journalist sent to write a feature on the party stays in town to cover the trial, and delves into the local underworld to discover what really happened. Fact-based drama, starring John Cusack. (1997)

A very different side of life awaits the stars

Take a gaggle of television personalities, drop them into a completely alien location stripped of all the comforts of modern life and make them fend for themselves.

No it's not I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here, Celebrity Big Brother or Bear Grylls: Mission Survive.

Instead, this social experiment, the first version of which first aired in 2009, is actually one of those examples of quality reality TV that uses pampered stars to full effect while raising awareness of a key social matter.

The premise of Famous, Rich and Homeless is quite simple: four Sports Relief volunteers agree to sleep rough on the streets of London to experience the harsh reality of homelessness in the UK.

Back in 2009, comedian Hardeep Singh Kohli, former tennis player Annabel Croft, ex-newspaper editor Rosie Boycott, Winston's Churchill's great nephew the Marquis of Blandford, and Coronation Street actor Bruce Jones all took part.

Now following in their footsteps are

comedian Nick Hancock, TV presenter Julia Bradbury, former snooker player Willie Thorne and celebrity cleaner Kim Woodburn.

Over two shows, the quartet all struggle with isolation, fear, the cold and wet, and the effort of day-to-day survival. For each volunteer the streets become a test of strength and self-reliance – and not everybody copes.

In addition, the famous faces also start to examine their own lives and their personal relationship to homelessness.

Thorne has gambled hundreds of thousands of pounds away during a 40-year gambling addiction and has recently gone bankrupt.

Meanwhile, Woodburn survived being homeless herself as a teenager and has strong opinions on how deserving of help – or not – the homeless are in the UK.

This social experiment, again led by John Bird, founder of The Big Issue, aims to expose the realities of the homeless problem in the UK.

The number of rough sleepers has gone up 55 per cent and the average

age of death for a homeless man is just 47 years old, 43 if you're a woman.

One in 10 of us will experience homelessness in some form during our lives, and it can happen to anyone – Halle Berry, Jim Carrey, Daniel Craig, Ella Fitzgerald, Jennifer Lopez, Hilary Swank, Charlie Chaplin and Harry Houdini are just a few of the global superstars who slept rough before making their showbiz millions.

Despite this show's worthy themes and legitimately jaw-dropping statistics about the number of people who sleep rough every night, many viewers will watch Famous, Rich and Homeless solely to see a group of celebrities taken out of their comfort zones.

However, 2009's experiment proved to be successful in raising awareness through a group of (mostly articulate) personalities who genuinely seemed to care about the subject matter.

Therefore, the show turned out to be effective and affecting – and arguably one of the best use of celebrities that television has seen for years.



Famous, Rich and Homeless, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Frontline Doctors: Winter Migrant Crisis

BBC1, 9pm

As trained humanitarian response medics, doctors Chris and Xand van Tulleken have worked in disaster zones across the world. However, the latest crisis is unfolding much closer to home, as Europe faces its largest migration since the Second World War. Now, Chris and Xand are learning more about the medical needs of those who have made the perilous journey from war-torn countries by visiting locations across Europe. The duo discovers that in addition to carrying the mental and physical scars of their homelands, the refugees face fresh problems in Europe. In Greece, the dangerous boat journeys mean that hypothermia and frostbite are prevalent, while in Calais, overcrowding has led to fears of disease.

TUESDAY

Happy Valley

BBC1, 9pm

Daniel suspects somebody at school might be responsible for Ryan's new-found interest in Tommy, and tries to explain that he wasn't really a dad to him, while, despite Sean protesting his innocence, Jodie and John receive permission to charge him with all of the murders. However, delight at the

developments is tempered when another body is found in the early hours, and Daryl wakes a stunned Alison in the middle of the night and confesses to murder, leading to dramatic scenes at the breakfast table.

WEDNESDAY

Dunblane: Our Story

BBC2, 9pm

Documentary commemorating the 20th anniversary of the firearms tragedy in Dunblane, near Stirling, in which a gunman shot dead 16 pupils and their teacher at a primary school. The film features testimony from a survivor, who was shot as a five year old and details her terrifying experience. It also includes an interview with the headmaster of the school at the time of the shootings, as well as contributions from family members of the survivors and the deceased, including two young women, who talk about sisters they never knew.

THURSDAY

The Secret History of My Family

BBC2, 8pm

The Gadbury sisters were three

pickpocketing siblings raised in 1830s Shoreditch, in the heart of London's criminal underworld. The first of a new documentary series on social mobility and social stasis examines how two of them were banished to England's 'thief colony.' However, as a twist on Who Do You Think You Are?, some

remarkable stories are discovered as we delve into their history. Among the ladies' Australian descendants are a couple of Supreme Court Judges and a Government Premier. As for the girl left in England, two of her descendants are a bin man and a window cleaner.

The remarkable story of the Gadbury girls, and subsequent branches of the family tree, are examined by their descendants.

FRIDAY

Crufts 2016

Channel 4, 7.30pm

New series.



Happy Valley, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

Live from the NEC in Birmingham, Clare Balding hosts launches Channel 4's coverage of the 125th anniversary of the world's largest dog event, continued from More4. This edition features a lively debate on canine health and welfare, with Professor Noel Fitzpatrick, Kate Bevan and Nick Blayney, and a look at the benefits of microchipping before it becomes compulsory under UK law next month. Plus, Iwan Thomas tries his hand at dog agility, and judging comes from the Vulnerable Breed and Gundog group.

Land of Hope and Glory – British Country Life

BBC2, 9pm

For almost 120 years, Country Life magazine has been the property bible for anyone looking to buy a grand country house. Jane Treays spends a year visiting cottages, manor houses and castles through the eyes of the magazine - and seeing how people live in them. Properties range from a crumbling historic mansion in Oxfordshire and a glorious Scottish estate basking in its £13million refurbishment, to the inherited turrets of Picton Castle in south-west Wales, and the noisy environment of a huntsman's 18th-century kennels and cottage.

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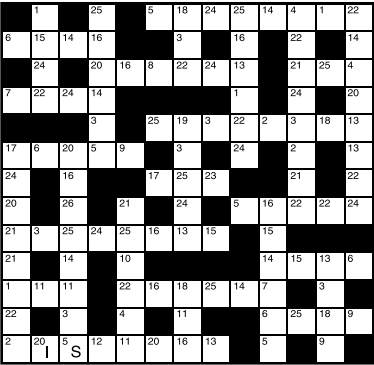
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BRAIN GYM No.367

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

R	H	Q	E	L	Y	C	M	D	Z	S	A	B
I	W	O	G	U	N	J	K	X	F	P	V	T

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

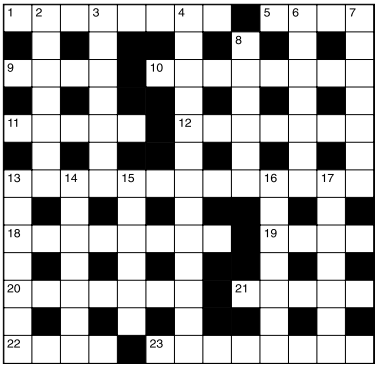
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Neat and honest (8)
- 5. The boss has a lot of horses (4)
- 9. A singular occasion (4)
- 10. The return from the capital (8)
- 11. The ultimate in sporting entertainment (5)
- 12. Grave words (7)
- 13. Like a miner with time on his hands? (5,8)
- 18. The patient does little to make such treatment effective (4-4)
- 19. One may win it by a head (4)
- 20. Some terrible mishap results in a scar (7)
- 21. Make a false impression (5)
- 22. An engagement, or the girl to whom you may become engaged (4)
- 23. Many steps have been taken for the sake of it (8)

Down

- 2. One isn't shaken, though it may make one shake (7)
- 3. The usual hail-storm? (7)
- 4. Is he making an empty protest? (6-7)
- 6. Possibly pray when under the treatment (7)
- 7. Many felt irritated and abandoned (7)
- 8. Daniel is upset by a contradiction (6)
- 13. Sort of boulder lacking rich investments (7)
- 14. Drop of French perfume (7)
- 15. Reporter's comeback perhaps (6)
- 16. Exit to the open air? (7)
- 17. Flag officers? (7)



Quick Clues:

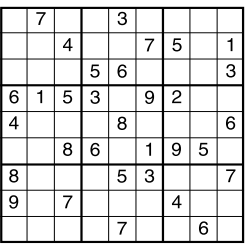
Across

- 1. Expunging (8)
- 5. Twirl (4)
- 9. An insect (4)
- 10. Impressive (8)
- 11. Tranquil (5)
- 12. Immediate (7)
- 13. Stupidity (13)
- 18. Thorough (8)
- 19. Pace (4)
- 20. Novels (7)
- 21. Corn (5)
- 22. Nightfall (4)
- 23. Be like (8)

Down

- 2. Rubbing out (7)
- 3. Utter (7)
- 4. Faint hope (7,6)
- 6. Archbishop (7)
- 7. Nullifies (7)
- 8. Osculates (6)
- 13. Jeered (7)
- 14. Observes (7)
- 15. Draw out (6)
- 16. Quack remedy (7)
- 17. Particular (7)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	8	1	7	3	4	2	9	6
4	7	6	5	9	2	1	8	3
2	3	9	6	8	1	5	7	4
1	6	4	2	5	6	9	8	3
7	5	2	8	6	3	9	4	1
3	9	8	1	4	7	6	2	5
6	4	5	3	2	8	7	1	9
9	2	7	4	1	5	3	6	8
8	1	3	9	7	6	4	5	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Bounty; 4 Prated; 9 Faces the music; 10 Earnest; 11 Nomad; 12 Ramps; 14 Scope; 18 Rings; 19 Records; 21 Private income; 22 Rushed; 23 Modest. Down: 1 Buffet; 2 Uncertainties; 3 Taste; 5 Romantic; 6 To some purpose; 7 Decode; 8 White; 13 Postage; 15 Proper; 16 Brief; 17 Aspect; 20 Canto. QUICK - Across: 1 Skilly; 4 Bridge; 9 Lackadaisical; 10 Strange; 11 Dumps; 12 Rebel; 14 Depot; 18 Trade; 19 Restive; 21 Animal spirits; 22 Denote; 23 Kennel. Down: 1 Splash; 2 Incarceration; 3 Learn; 5 Residue; 6 Decomposition; 7 Enlist; 8 Waver; 13 Elegant; 15 Strand; 16 Gross; 17 Vessel; 20 Shine.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. At which Oxford College did politician Roy Jenkins study?
- 2. Who became chairman of CND for the second time in 1987?
- 3. What nationality was painter El Lissitzky?
- 4. What was playwright Jean Baptiste Poquelin better known as?
- 5. Which British Labour politician was in the merchant navy from 1955-63?
- 6. Which composer's first film score was for Knight Without Armour in 1937?
- 7. What was the comic strip Peanuts originally called?
- 8. Who was Liberal MP for North Devon from 1959-79?
- 9. Whose first novel was Player Piano?
- 10. Which politician managed Gerald Ford's 1976 presidential campaign?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Kingsley Amis; 2 Gabriel Axel; 3 John Blashford-Snell; 4 February 1st; 5 Italian; 6 Claudette Colbert; 7 The Boston Strangler; 8 Stephen Foster; 9 North Carolina; 10 Elias Howe. Niner: DAUGHTERS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

91729 gives a composer,
62841 gives a singer,
374578 gives an instrument.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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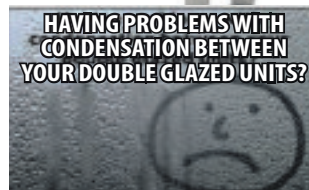
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Passionate couple delight romantics

BALLET REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

Romeo and Juliet, Birmingham Hippodrome
THE passionate pairing of the waif-like Jenna Roberts and powerful Iain Mackay was at the centre of this revival of Kenneth MacMillan's 50-year-old ballet – part of Birmingham Royal Ballet's 2016 Shakespeare season.

Miss Roberts' slight frame belies a steely strength and she used every ounce of it.

Her Juliet leapt into the strong arms of Mackay as Romeo. He lifted her aloft with gravity-defying dexterity, as Romeo in his ardour could clearly not keep his hands off his new love.

The Australian principal ballerina was spellbinding, drifting ghost-like en pointe to her inevitable doom.

Their balcony scene, with the couple confirming their love with an impassioned pas de deux in the Capulets' garden, was outstanding.

Mackay was almost, but not quite, eclipsed by Tyrone Singleton's charismatic Tybalt. As the leading young Montague and Capulet clashed – their sword-fighting in sync with Prokofiev's stirring music – there was a dynamic Errol Flynn feel to the action.

Comic relief came from Marion Tate (the company's assistant director) as a busybody Nurse, as expressive with her eyes as her feet, and all-energy Celine Gittens as a dancing floozy.

No one does haughty better than Samara Downs, who as Lady Capulet also brilliantly expressed her grief at Tybalt's death.

Another highlight was the carnival scene in which the weirdly-clad man-



Passionate pair – Iain Mackay and Jenna Roberts as Romeo and Juliet

dolin dancers (think slimline Wook-lee), led by Tzu-Chao Chou, were thrilling.

The renaissance Italy costumes, the late Paul Andrews' sumptuous sets and Royal Ballet Sinfonia's gorgeous rendering of Prokofiev's score all added to the epic quality of this production.

The ballet lacks a final grand pas de deux due to the nature of the story, with the two star-crossed lovers dieing moments apart. But that makes Romeo's final dance, clinging to an appar-

ently lifeless Juliet as she droops like a rag doll, all the more heart-breaking.

The curtain-calls for Iain Mackay and Jenna Roberts were well deserved after a performance that will have delighted all romantics.

Birmingham Royal Ballet's Shakespeare season continues at the Hippodrome in June with The Taming of the Shrew by John Cranko; and a triple bill, David Bintley's The Shakespeare Suite, The Moor's Pavane (Jose Limon's work based on Othello) and, a new work by Jessica Lang, Wink.

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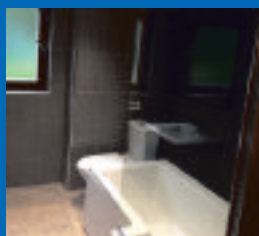
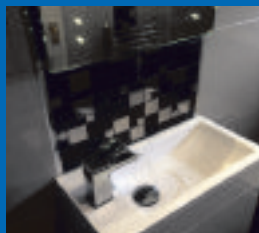
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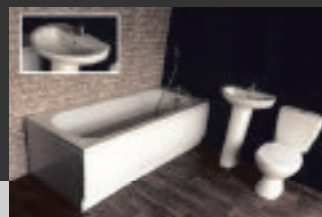
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VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 4th & 5th MARCH @ 10.00 a.m.



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VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 4th & 5th MARCH @ 11.00 a.m.



33 FORTON CLOSE, COMPTON, WOLVERHAMPTON

Uniquely designed large modern Detached, Hall, 21ft Lounge, First Floor Dining Room / Lounge (18ft.), balcony, fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, spacious Bathroom, Gas CH., Utility Room / Workshop, Car Port, pleasant Gardens. EPC = E51
Guide: £185,000 / £195,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 4th & 5th MARCH @ 12.00 noon



80 FOWLER STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

Mid Terraced, Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Rear Hall, Shower Room & Separate Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Rear Verandah, long Garden. EPC = E53
Guide: £69,000 / £74,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 4th & 5th MARCH @ 9.45 a.m.



95 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Well presented Ground Floor Flat. Communal entrance, Hall, Lounge, well proportioned Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, smart white Bathroom. Garage. EPC = D58
Guide: £55,000 / £60,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 4th & 5th MARCH @ 10.45 a.m.



20 GLYME DRIVE, TETTENHALL.

Detached Bungalow in prominent corner position, Double Glazing, CH., Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Car Port, Rear Garden. EPC = D63
Guide: £138,000 / £143,000

NOTE: Planning Permission granted for creation of Four 1 bed Flats.
VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 4th & 5th MARCH @ 11.45 a.m.

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LOT 1

8 CLARENCE ROAD, BILSTON, WV14 6NZ
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

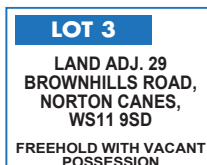
- ◆ Semi detached house
- ◆ Four bedrooms
- ◆ Gas fired central heating
- ◆ In need of comprehensive renovation
- ◆ EPC rating D (63)
- ◆ GUIDE PRICE £60,000-£80,000



LOT 2

ROSE COTTAGE, 73 HEATH GAP ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 6DS
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Detached house
- ◆ Requires comprehensive refurbishment
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Part gas fired central heating (Not tested)
- ◆ Fully double glazed
- ◆ EPC rating F (35)
- ◆ GUIDE PRICE £70,000-£80,000



LOT 3

LAND ADJ. 29 BROWNHILLS ROAD, NORTON CANES, WS11 9SD

- ◆ FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- ◆ Parcel of Freehold land
- ◆ Located with village of Norton Canes
- ◆ Potential for residential development (subject to planning permission being obtained)
- ◆ Currently with detached garage
- ◆ GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £80,000



LOT 4

LAND REAR OF 374 CEMETERY ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 4AY

- ◆ FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- ◆ Good sized building plot in popular residential area
- ◆ Frontage 9.74m or thereabouts
- ◆ Depth 32.00m or thereabouts
- ◆ Area 312 m² of thereabouts
- ◆ GUIDE PRICE £38,000+



LOT 5

- ◆ Building plot having Planning Permission for erection of one three bedroomed detached house
- ◆ Width at building line - 7.2m (23ft 7ins) Approx
- ◆ Maximum depth - 32m (104ft 11ins) Approx
- ◆ Area - 240m (287 sq yards) or thereabouts
- ◆ GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £70,000



LOT 6

- ◆ Building PLOT ADJ. 3 HUNTERS RIDE, STAFFORD, ST17 9HU
- ◆ FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION



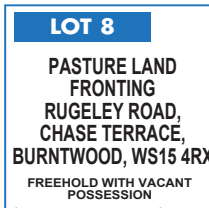
LOT 7

- ◆ Building PLOT KNOWN AS PILLATON FARM CATTERY, PILLATON, STAFFORD ST19 5RZ
- ◆ FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- ◆ An outstanding individual building plot
- ◆ Having benefit of planning permission for single residential property
- ◆ Total plot area 0.66 of an acre or thereabouts
- ◆ Located in rural greenbelt position
- ◆ Ripe for early development
- ◆ GUIDE PRICE £200,000-£250,000



LOT 8

- ◆ 189 GOLDTHORN HILL, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV2 4QB
- ◆ FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- ◆ Substantial end terraced house
- ◆ Lounge and dining room
- ◆ Conservatory/sun lounge
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Off road parking
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ Convenient for Wolverhampton City Centre
- ◆ EPC rating E (52)
- ◆ GUIDE PRICE £125,000+



LOT 8

- ◆ PASTURE LAND FRONTING RUGELEY ROAD, CHASE TERRACE, BURNWOOD, WS15 4RX
- ◆ FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- ◆ Irregular shaped parcel of pasture land
- ◆ Extending to 1.71 Acres or thereabouts and having a frontage to Redmoor Brook in the North
- ◆ Conveniently located for access to Gentleshaw Common
- ◆ GUIDE PRICE £10,000



LOT 9

- ◆ BUILDING PLOT ADJ. HORSEFAIR COTTAGE, 90 BELLBROOK, PENKRDGE, ST19 5DL
- ◆ FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- ◆ Rare opportunity to acquire a good sized individual building plot
- ◆ Planning permission for erection of one 3/4 bedroomed detached residence
- ◆ Occupying elevated position
- ◆ Located in conservation area of Penkridge
- ◆ GUIDE PRICE £150,000-£175,000



LOT 10

- ◆ CHERITON, 524 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY, WS6 6HX
- ◆ FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- ◆ Detached bungalow
- ◆ Two bedrooms
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ In need of refurbishment
- ◆ Larger gardens
- ◆ EPC rating F (26)
- ◆ GUIDE PRICE £160,000-£170,000



LOT 11

- ◆ 174 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY, WS6 6NQ
- ◆ FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- ◆ Detached house occupying prominent corner plot
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Gas fired central heating (Not tested)
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ EPC rating C (70)
- ◆ GUIDE PRICE £190,000-£210,000

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The Chronicle Thursday, March 3, 2016

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SHORT HEATH



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OIEO £100,000

SHORT HEATH



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SHORT HEATH



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SHORT HEATH



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DARLASTON



MEMORY LANE, DARLASTON
Well Presented Three Bed Semi Detached Property Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Family Bathroom, G/C/H And D/G.

£129,995

WILLENHALL



SHEPWEEL GREEN, W-HALL
Three Bed Semi Detached Property Having Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Lounge Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking And A Private Garden.

£134,995

ESSINGTON



THE GABLES, W-HAMPTON
Two Bed Mid Town House Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, Family Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, UPVC Double Glazing And Garage. Sought After Location.

£140,000

KINGFISHER ESTATE



WELLAND GROVE, W-HALL
Three Bedroom Detached Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazed, G/C/H, Gardens To Front & Rear, Driveway & Garage.

£145,995

FURZEBANK



PINENEEDLE CROFT, W-HALL
Extended Three Bed Semi Detached Bungalow Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen And Shower Room, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Driveway And Private Rear Garden.

£160,000

WILLENHALL



SOMERFORD PLACE, W-HALL
Spacious Three/ Four Bed Detached Property Having Entrance Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Generous Kitchen/ Diner, Shower Room, Cellar, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/G, G/C/H, Off Road Parking.

£184,995

ESSINGTON



ASHMORE LODGE, W-TON
CHOICE OF TWO NEW BUNGALOWS Comprises Of Open Plan Lounge/ Kitchen Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom With Separate Shower Cubicle, UPVC D/G & G/C/H, Private Gated Development.

£189,995

SHORT HEATH



EZEKIEL LANE, WILLENHALL
Spacious Semi Detached Bungalow Comprises Of Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, D/Room, Family Bathroom, Two Ground Floor Bedroom, D/G & G/C/H. Potential Building Plot STPP.

£190,000

MUST VIEW



CRAB LANE, WILLENHALL
Prestigious Extended Four Bed Detached Having Lounge, Sitting Room, Dining Kitchen, Conservatory, Utility, Galleried Landing, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Garage, Substantial Plot.

£365,000

ESSINGTON



SNEYD LANE, ESSINGTON
Substantial Three Bed Detached Bungalow Having Imposing Entrance Hall, 38ft Through Lounge, Impressive Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility, Study/Playroom, Two Bathrooms, D/G, C/H, Garage, Generous Plot.

£370,000

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SUMMER HAYES FARBROOK WAY

- Extended Modern Link Detached
- Dining Kitchen, Spacious Lounge
- Study, Utility With Wc
- Three Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Block Paved Driveway
- Double Glazing (Where Specified)
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage, Pleasant Gardens



£185,000



WILLENHALL LAKELOT CLOSE

- An Impressive Taylor Wimpey 4 Bedrooms Recently Built Detached
- Hall, Guests Wc
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Excellent Breakfast Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- En-suite Shower Room
- Garage & Driveway • Gardens



Offers Over £215,000



WILLENHALL BILSTON LANE

- Large Period 3 Bedroom Detached Property With Extensive Large Rear Gardens (Ideal For Development (STPP))
- Hall, Guests Wc, Lounge



- Spacious Dining Kitchen • Bathroom
- Majority Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Driveway, No Upward Chain

£170,000



NEW INVENTION BALMORAL DRIVE

- Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Through Lounge
- Kitchen
- Conservatory



- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing
- Rear Gardens

£135,000



WILLENHALL LUCKNOW ROAD

- Beautifully Maintained Traditional Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Impressive Kitchen, Utility/wc
- Two Bedrooms, Superb Re-fitted Bathroom



- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating
- Large Gardens With Development Potential (Subject to planning permission)
- Excellent Drive, No Chain

£130,000



WILLENHALL CADNAM CLOSE

- Modern Style Three Bedrooms Detached
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom



- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage, Driveway
- Front And Rear Gardens

£124,950



WILLENHALL RAVENSCROFT ROAD

- Impressive 3 Bedroom Detached
- Lounge • Dining Room • Spacious Kitchen/diner
- Utility Room With Wc • Bathroom, En-suite
- Two Garages • Large Corner Plot Gardens

£235,000



NEW INVENTION MENAI CLOSE

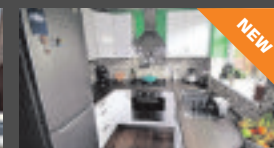
- Improved 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating System
- Hall, Through Lounge / Dining Room
- Re-fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Driveway, Gardens

£134,950 NEAR SANDRINGHAM AV



WILLENHALL HONEYBOURNE WAY

- Modern Style Semi Detached Property
- Very Popular Location With Lounge
- Re-fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms



- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Driveway
- Front And Rear Gardens

£123,950



SUMMER HAYES BRIDGNORTH GROVE

- Ground Fir Two Bedroom Maisonette • Long Lease
- Lounge, Excellent Re-fitted Kitchen, Conservatory
- Shower Room • Pleasant Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing, Gas CH, Allocated Parking Space

£110,000



PORTOBELLO WAITE ROAD

- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Open Plan Lounge & Dining Room • Kitchen
- Ground Floor Shower Room • Re-fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Gas CH • Driveway, Rear Gardens

£110,000



WILLENHALL THE CRESCENT

- Spacious Modern Style Semi Detached
- Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Three Good Size Bedrooms
- Large Re-fitted Shower Room
- Garage, Driveway
- Pleasant, Large Gardens
- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain



£139,950



WILLENHALL MEMORIAL CLOSE

- Greatly Improved Modern Style Semi Detached
- Hall, Lounge, Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory, Two Bedrooms
- Newly Re-fitted Bathroom



- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System
- Car Port, Block Paved Driveway
- No Upward Chain, Rear Garden

£129,950



NEW INVENTION MOXHULL CLOSE

- Much Improved And Superbly Presented End Town House
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Dining Kitchen



- Lounge, Downstairs Wc
- Bathroom, rear Garden
- Outside Building/ Gym/office
- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating

£112,995



SHORT HEATH POOLES LANE

- Period Two Bedroom Mid Terrace Property
- Two Reception Rooms • Extended Kitchen
- Bathroom • Double Glazing
- Gas CH • Pleasant Rear Gardens • No Chain

OFFERS OVER £90,000



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF OFFER - 2 Peppers Walk, Pendeford, Wolverhampton, WVB 11B. By order of the mortgagees in possession, we would advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £39,995. Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the selling agents of their best offer either prior to exchange or within the next 7 days which ever is sooner. Skitts Estate Agents, 11 Three Trees Parade, Wolverhampton, WV10 6BA, 01902 788188.

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Little Island Drive
Willenhall

NEW

3 Bedroom 3 storey end town house, cul-de-sac location, entrance hall, downstairs wc, lounge, kitchen/diner, main bathroom, en-suite to main bedroom, double glazing and central heating, garage and driveway, rear garden, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley on 01902 633323 to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £130,000

Belford - Plot 10 Spring Walk
Willenhall

NEW

Brand New Two Bedroom Home In On The Newly Built "Spring Walk" Development In Willenhall. Benefiting From Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating The Property Comprises Of, Entrance Hall, W.C, Large Open Plan Kitchen/ Lounge/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Master Ensuite, And Family Bathroom.

OFFERS AROUND: £127,995

Lichfield Road
Willenhall

SOLD

REDUCED Lovely traditional 3 bedroom semi detached home, lounge, dining room, kitchen, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing, good size rear garden, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000

Weaver Grove
Willenhall

Entrance Hall, Large Lounge, Dining Room Leading Into Kitchen, Master Bedroom With En-suite, Two Further Bedrooms And Family Bathroom. The Property Further Benefits From Pleasant Fore And Rear Gardens, Detached Garage And Driveway.

VIEWINGS HIGHLY ADVISED! EPC - C

OFFERS AROUND: £180,000

Fordbrook Lane
Walsall

An Extended Three Bedroom Semi Detached Home In The Popular Location of Pelsall! Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Side Utility, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom And Single Garage. The Property Also Further Benefits From Large Driveway To Fore And Pleasant Rear Garden.

OFFERS AROUND: £175,000

Delamere Road
Willenhall

Three bedroom extended family home in a secluded cul-de-sac location. Porch, Veranda, Entrance Hallway, Lounge with dining area, breakfast kitchen, utility, three bedrooms and family bathroom. The property further benefits from pleasant rear garden, front garden with parking, and also further off road parking and a single garage.

OFFERS AROUND: £130,000

Bradleys Lane
Bilston

NEW

NEW Immaculate and refurbished 3 bedroom traditional detached house, entrance porch and hallway, lounge, beautiful kitchen/diner, conservatory, downstairs wc, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing, garage and driveway, front and rear gardens, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £225,000

PUBLIC NOTICE

Wolverhampton Street
Paul Dubberley are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of pound:160,000 for 160 Wolverhampton Street WV14 0LZ. Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Paul Dubberley Estate Agents, 1 Walsall Street, Bilston, WV14 0AT, 01902 494966 prior to exchange of contracts.

Moorcroft
Bilston

Deceptively Spacious Semi Detached Bungalow In A Quiet Cul-De-Sac Location. Benefiting From Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. The Property Comprises Of: Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Second Reception Room/Third Bedroom, Family Bathroom, Side Veranda, Part Converted Loft Room (Not Inspected). The Property Further Benefits From Pleasant Rear Garden And Driveway To Front.

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £125,000

Broad Street
Bilston

NEW PRICE

A Fantastic 3 bed extended detached house with gas central heating & double glazing. The property is within walking distance of Bilston town, the metro and main bus routes. The property briefly comprises, porch, hallway, lounge, lounge / dining room, kitchen, utility room, guest cloakroom, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden, off road parking and garage.

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £155,000

Constantine Way
Bilston

An immaculate Detached Residence on the popular Bridgefields Estate. Gas Central Heating, UPVC Double Glazing & No Upward Chain. Spacious Family accommodation Briefly Comprising: Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage.

ASKING PRICE OF £169,995

Weston Drive
Bilston

NEW

Paul Dubberley Are Pleased To Present This Modern Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment In A Secluded Canal Side Location. Benefiting From Double Glazing And Electric Heating, The Property Comprises Of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms With Built In Wardrobes And Family Bathroom. The Property Further Benefits From Being Re-Decorated Throughout With New Flooring, NO CHAIN!

OFFERS AROUND: £75,000

Sidcup Close
Bilston

SOLD

This Modern Detached property which has been recently updated to a very good standard is located on the Sedgemoor Park Estate. The property briefly comprises, Hall, Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen, Downstairs Cloakroom, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage and Rear Garden.

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF: £225,000

Bailey Road
Bilston

SOLD

This Semi Detached home which has the benefit of a brand new Kitchen and Bathroom briefly comprises, Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, First floor landing, Three bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage and rear Garden.

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £120,000

Hartland Avenue
Bilston

Well Presented Modern End of Terrace close to all local amenities and transport links. Benefiting from UPVC Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating and briefly comprising, Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Front Driveway providing off road parking for two cars and Rear Garden.

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £100,000

Ashtree Grove
Bilston

A traditional semi detached family home which is located in a popular position. The spacious accommodation comprises lounge, dining room, kitchen with side veranda, three bedrooms, modern bathroom and rear garden. The property also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. Note we hold a mining report for this property.

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF: £100,000

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Hawkswell Drive
Willenhall

Very Well Presented Three Bedroom Detached Residence On The Popular Hadley Heath Development. Being Newly Decorated And Re-carpeted, With Open Views To The Front. The Property Briefly Comprises Of: Hall, Lounge, Large Kitchen Diner, Three Bedrooms And Family Bathroom. The Property Further Benefits From Mature Rear Garden, Driveway To Fore And Side Carport With Potential To Extend (Subject To Planning Permission).

OFFERS AROUND: £149,000

Main Street
Stonall

RARE REFURBISHMENT PROJECT Character 2 bedroom Grade 2 listed cottage with extending garden in the desirable location of Stonall.

Potential to extend subject to planning permission currently, kitchen, 2 reception rooms, 2/3 bedrooms, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, call Paul Dubberley for more details, 01922 241100.

OFFERS AROUND: £400,000

Essington Way
Wolverhampton

A three storey end townhouse property offering NO CHAIN! The property offers generous accommodation comprising of: entrance hallway, guest WC and ground floor bedroom. First floor is a large kitchen diner and living room, and to the second floor there are two further bedrooms, both with en-suites. The property further benefits from a driveway to the fore giving off road parking, garage and enclosed garden to the rear.

OFFERS AROUND: £135,000

Moathouse Lane East
Wolverhampton

IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY OR BUY TO LET INVESTMENT The Property Briefly Comprises Of: Porch, Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Large Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Front Driveway And Private Rear Garden.

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000



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Redmires Close, Rushall

- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EXECUTIVE DETACHED FORMER SHOW HOME
- IMMACULATE CONDITION
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- PLEASANT REAR GARDEN
- OPEN PLAN LOUNGE/DINER



Tannery Court, Walsall Town

- Brand New Three Storey Property
- 10 Year NHBC Warranty
- Garage
- New Development in the Heart Of Walsall
- Show Home Available to View
- Viewing Essential

Offers in the Region Of £289,950

Offers in the Region Of £195,000



Nutmeg Grove, Chuckery

- Impressive Detached Residence
- Double Detached Garage
- Sought After Development Close To Walsall Town Centre
- Close Proximity To Popular Schools
- Superb Kitchen/Diner

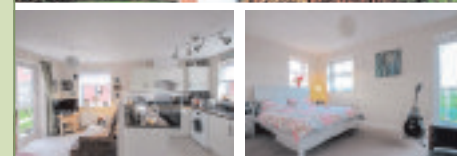
Offers in the Region Of £374,995



Waters Keep, Walsall

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C
- Rear French Doors
- Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

From £154,995



Catches Drive, Bloxwich

- Immaculate Corner Plot Detached Home
- Detached Garage
- Two Reception Rooms
- Open Plan Living Kitchen
- En-Suite & Balcony to Master Bedroom
- Parking for Several Vehicles
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Superb Views Across King George Playing Fields
- Excellent Motorway Transport Links

£250,000



Waters Keep, Walsall

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C
- Rear French Doors
- Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

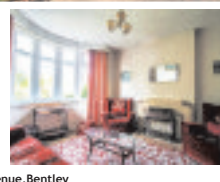
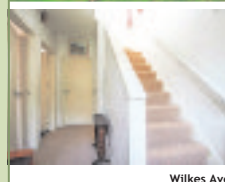
From £130,995



Yorkshire Grove, Walsall

- Immaculately Presented
- Modern Semi Detached
- Sought After Jubilee Gardens Development
- Guest Cloakroom
- Open Plan Kitchen/Living Room
- Two Double Bedrooms
- NHBC Warranty

Offers in Excess Of £125,000



Wilkes Avenue, Bentley

- Traditional Detached Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Side Garage
- Driveway
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Close to King Charles Primary School
- Great Potential to Improve/Extend
- Located Close to M6 J10
- Viewing Essential
- No Chain

Offers in the Region Of £150,000



Hunter Crescent, Leamore

- Superbly Extended Semi-Detached
- Pleasant Lounge
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Refitted Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking

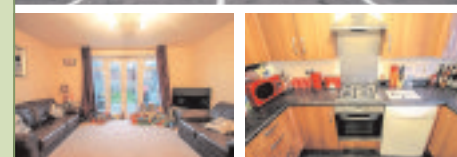
Offers in the Region Of £125,000



Hawbush Road, Leamore

- Superb Kitchen/Diner
- Utility Room and Guest WC
- Porch
- Spacious Lounge
- Off Road Parking
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

Offers in the Region Of £115,000



Water Reed Grove, Leamore

- Modern Town House
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Ground Floor WC
- Fitted Kitchen
- Spacious Lounge
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Easy Access to M6 J10
- Ideal First Purchase
- Remaining NHBC Warranty

Offers in Excess of £120,000



50 Park Road, Bloxwich

- Contemporary Apartment Block Built in 2008
- Currently Achieving £6600 Annual Rent
- Private Secure Parking
- Security Gated Entrance
- Spacious Second Floor Apartment

£125,000



Penderel Street, Blakenall

- No Upward Chain
- Refitted Kitchen
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Modern style Interior
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Viewing Essential
- Sought After Location

£104,950



Pooles Lane, Willenhall

- Ideal Starter Home
- Off Road Parking
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Refitted Bathroom
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Viewing Essential
- No Chain
- Great School Catchment Area
- Sought After Location

Offers in the Region Of £105,000



Newhome Way, Blakenall

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom With Shower over Bath
- Allocated Parking
- Secure Entrance Doors
- Superfast Broadband Enabled
- Achieving £5400 Income (7% Yield)

£74,950

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Walsall Road, Walsall

- Superbly Designed Detached Bungalow
- Set on 0.8 Acre Plot
- Three Bedrooms all having En-Suites
- Grand Entrance Hallway
- Lounge with Inglenook Fireplace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Sun Room with Log Burner
- Conservatory

Offers in the Region Of £450,000

Blithfield Road, Walsall

- Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms, Two with En-Suite
- Fitted Oak Kitchen with Granite Worktops
- Rosewood Double Glazing
- Underfloor Heating in Kitchen & Utility
- Unvented Pressurised Heating System
- Three Bathrooms
- Off Road Parking & Garage

SOLD
Subject to Contract

£325,000

New Street, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Detached House
- Two Bedroom Self Contained Annexe
- Detached Double Garage
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating

Offers in the Region Of £270,000

The Parkway, Walsall

- Detached Property
- Entrance Hallway
- Rear Garden
- Conservatory with Under-Floor Heating
- En-Suite to Master
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- Guest Cloakroom

£260,000

Norton Road, Walsall

- Link Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Off Road Parking

£190,000

Ashtree Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom
- Refurbished
- Superb Kitchen/Conservatory
- En-Suite
- Many Original Features
- Detached Garage
- Petsall Village Location

£190,000

Church Road, Norton Canes

- Delightful Link Detached Family Home
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Spacious Lounge
- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Tandem Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Sought After Area of Norton Canes

186950

Lawnoaks Close, Walsall

- Detached Property
- Utility Room
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Close to Chasewater
- Easy Access to the A5
- Conservatory
- Kitchen/Diner

Offers in Excess of £180,000

Dunnerdale Road, Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Off Road Parking
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Fitted Kitchen & Dining Area
- Conservatory

SOLD
Subject to Contract

Offers in the Region Of £165,000

Bridge Street, Walsall

- Delightful Three Bedroom Property
- Semi-Detached Corner Plot
- Superb Kitchen/Diner
- Ground Floor WC
- Off Road Parking
- Lounge
- Playroom/Dining Room
- Private Rear Garden
- Sought After Location
- Potential for Annexe

£159,950

Watling Street, Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Superb Extended Kitchen
- Lounge with Log Burner
- Second Reception Room
- Useful Loft Space
- Some Work Required

Offers in the Region Of £159,950

Lichfield Road, Walsall

- Extended Modern Semi-Detached
- Ground Floor Double Bedroom
- Beautifully Presented Throughout
- Fitted Kitchen
- Contemporary Lounge
- Conservatory

SOLD
Subject to Contract

£150,000

Bridge Street, Walsall

- Delightful Three Bedroom Property
- Semi-Detached Corner Plot
- Superb Kitchen/Diner
- Ground Floor WC
- Off Road Parking
- Lounge
- Playroom/Dining Room
- Private Rear Garden
- Sought After Location
- Potential for Annexe

£159,950

Watling Street, Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Period Property
- Scope for Further Development
- Spacious Rooms
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Excellent Transport Links

£130,000

Great Charles Street, Walsall

- Beautifully Presented Semi-Detached
- Ideal First Time Buyer's Home
- Suitable Buy-to-Let
- Off Road Parking
- Ground Floor WC
- Close to Popular Schools
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

£125,000

Springfields, Walsall

- Well Presented End Terrace
- Ideal First Purchase
- Kitchen/Diner
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Lounge
- Several Reputable Schools Nearby

£114,950

Commonside, Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Off Road Parking
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Rear Garden

£110,000

Plant Way, Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Ideal for a First Time Buyer
- Suitable Buy-to-Let (7% Gross Yield)
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Corner Plot
- Delightful & Spacious Rear Garden

Offers in the Region Of £99,950

Northgate, Walsall

- Residential House Manager
- Residents Lounge
- Laundry Room
- Lift
- Communal Gardens
- Within Easy Access of Local Shops
- Double Glazing
- Economy 7 Storage Heating

£79,950

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Tyre firm is driving ahead

Bridgestone UK's tyre division is embarking on a golf sponsorship quite unique to the UK tyre industry, featuring a European Tour event partnership, the resurrection of a high-profile English tournament and a nationwide amateur competition with up to 1,900 golf clubs.

The premium tyre manufacturer has unveiled a three-pronged association with the sport, which will not only engage with thousands of amateur players across England, but will also include the reintroduction of an England-based Challenge Tour event after a three year absence.

Bridgestone's holistic package of golf sponsorships includes the following:

- Official partner of the European Tour's British Masters event, supported by Sky Sports, from October 13 to 16, hosted by Luke Donald at The Grove

- Headline sponsor of the Bridgestone Challenge, a Challenge Tour event, at Heythrop Park from August 25 to 28

- The creation of the Bridgestone DriveGuard Trophy, a Bridgestone amateur championship in association with England Golf, reaching up to 1,900 clubs and 650,000 players

The decision to embark on a high profile golf sponsorship represents a significant change from more commonplace sports partnerships in the tyre industry, with Bridgestone keen to create a stage for amateurs of all abilities to realise their dreams and play the game on the highest stage.

Such an incentive was crucial in Bridgestone's decision to enter the world of golf, as the tyre manufacturer attempts to

engage with players in a tangible way that will live long in the memory.

Bridgestone decided to embark on a golfing journey after a successful foray into the sport in 2015, where a tournament for amateur players yielded great exposure and significant interest in the company's premium products.

This year will see an extension of this event in partnership with England Golf, with courses across England invited to introduce the Bridgestone DriveGuard Trophy onto their calendars between March, April and May. The competition will be free to enter and accessible to golfers of all ages and handicaps and is open to men, women and juniors.

It has been named after an innovative new range of Bridgestone tyres called DriveGuard, which allow drivers to maintain control after a puncture and safely continue for 50 miles and speeds up to 50mph, or a safe destination to organise a replacement.

Each club winner will go on to play in regional DriveGuard Trophy finals in June and July, with the triumphant golfers in the regional finals going on to play in the pro-am of the Bridgestone Challenge event itself in August.

And to link the sponsorships perfectly, the winners of the Bridgestone Challenge pro-am will then win a trip to the British Masters, supported by Sky Sports, to play in the official pro-am with some of the biggest and best names in the sport, in October.

Bridgestone's north region consumer sales and marketing director Farrell Dolan said: "We have identified huge potential from the world of golf and are extremely excited to be entering into a series of sponsorships covering such a broad range of the sport.

"We also feel that the core values that underpin the sport are synonymous with our



The Challenge Tour offers the best way for talented young golfers to develop their professional game and a large number of our recent success stories have been English players

own, most notably that of respect, integrity and excellence."

Jamie Birkmyre, European Tour director of Championship Management, said: "It is fantastic news that Bridgestone are becoming a partner of the British Masters supported by Sky Sports. The tournament was a huge success on its reintroduction to The European Tour last year and it is a real coup to be able to enjoy the backing of the world's largest tyre and rubber company."

Alain de Soultrait, Challenge Tour director, said: "We are delighted to be able to partner with Bridgestone and are excited to be bringing the Challenge Tour back to

England, aided by the support of England Golf.

"The Challenge Tour offers the best way for talented young golfers to develop their professional game and a large number of our recent success stories have been English players.

"Major Champion Justin Rose and Ryder Cup hero Ian Poulter both came through our ranks while Tommy Fleetwood and Andrew Johnston both finished top of the Challenge Tour Rankings in recent years.

"The commitment Bridgestone is showing to encourage the growth of the game in England will hopefully lead to similar success stories in future years."



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Marking 100 years of Isuzu

The Isuzu D-Max Blade – the flagship model of the multi-award winning pick-up range – is getting a centennial Venetian Red paint finish as part of the celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary since the company first set up operations in Tokyo, Japan. The glowing red colour scheme will be limited to 100 D-Max Blade pick-up vehicles.

The vibrant Venetian Red colour will leave a lasting impression as it takes hints from the same shade of red consistently used by Isuzu throughout the brand's history. The top-of-the-range double-cab Blade is available from just £25,999 in manual transmission and

the eye-catching Venetian Red finish comes at no extra cost. The Blade, which has been a big hit since it was launched in 2014, is already available in Cosmic Black or Pearlescent White.

The D-Max Blade range-topper comes with a host of extra features and quality interior appointments for a premium level of comfort and refinement, including superior leather upholstery, 18-inch Shadow alloy wheels and choice of Black Mountain Top Roller Cover with Black Rear Style Bar or Colour Coded Aeroklas Leisure Canopy.

At the heart of the Blade remains the powerful-yet-efficient 2.5-litre twin-turbo diesel engine, producing 163 PS and 400 Nm of torque. Isuzu's advanced power unit returns a highly im-

pressive fuel economy of 38.7 mpg on a combined cycle.

Owners also benefit from a heavy-weight towing capacity of 3.5 tonnes (braked trailer) and 1,072 kg (manual) / 1,067 kg (auto) payload.

Isuzu entered its centenary year on a rich vein of form, as the longest-running Japanese car manufacturer continues to break sales records in the UK. With 6,220 vehicle registrations in 2015, Isuzu UK made a 13 per cent year-on-year improvement while also recording a 478 per cent sales boost compared to five years ago. Further model news is expected later in the year.

Every new D-Max sold in the UK is backed by the company's pioneering, five-year / 125,000-mile warranty.

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Production of the latest Astra model starts in UK

Vauxhall and sister company Opel celebrated the official start of Astra Sports Tourer production at its plant in Ellesmere Port.

The first vehicle to roll off the production line in Cheshire was an Elite 1.6CDTi, in Flip Chip Silver.

Jubilant plant workers were joined by Peter Thom, General Motors' vice president global manufacturing and Stefan Fesser, Ellesmere Port plant director.

Thom was visiting to hand over the 2015 Winner for Safety award, won by the plant. Fesser also collected 2015 Winner for Vauxhall/Opel Astra Hatchback Launch awarded by Jim Deluca, Executive Vice President and Thom. Thanks to the outstanding attitude and work ethic of the employees, the plant beat world-class competition from across Europe to build the new car.

The Ellesmere Port Plant is a significant contributor to the local and national economies building over five million vehicles since 1964. The factory is a major exporter with 52 per cent of production going to 25 European markets. At full production it is estimated the plant will build around 680 cars per day and 120,000 per year.

UK firms, including those in manufacturing, utilities, construction, transportation and storage, benefit from almost £70 million gross value added directly from Vauxhall's investment in Ellesmere Port.

"This first Astra Sports Tourer marks another milestone in the great history of Vauxhall manufacturing in the North-West," said Rory Harvey, Vauxhall's chairman and managing director. The all-new Astra is of critical importance to Vauxhall and its manufacturing facility in Ellesmere Port. I'm very proud of the men and women who build this vehicle to world class levels of quality and productivity."

Lightweight

Like its five-door hatch sibling, the Sports Tourer is based on an all-new lightweight vehicle architecture with a new design, powertrains and technology.

The Sports Tourer further extends the dynamic lines of the five-door. The slightly arched sloping roofline gives the Sports Tourer a longer appearance, an effect that is further enhanced by the divided C-pillar.

The rear view combines high functionality with elegant design. The Sports Tourer has a stable, robust and safe stance, the muscular rear-wheel arch contours and the divided rear light clusters add to this impression.

The latest generation Sports Tourer has the same dimensions as the outgoing model with a length of 4,702mm, a width of 1,871mm (with exterior mirrors folded in) and a height of 1,499mm – however, it offers much more space for passengers and luggage.

The driver can enjoy 26mm of additional headroom, passengers in the rear have 28mm more, providing more space and comfort. The Sports Tourer's total cargo capacity is now 1,630 litres, thanks to more efficient packaging.

The powertrain portfolio features petrol and diesel units ranging from 100PS to 200PS, including an all-new 1.4-litre (150PS) ECOTEC Direct Injection Turbo and the recently-launched 1.6-litre CDTi Whisper Diesel. The 200PS version of the 1.6-litre ECOTEC petrol will celebrate its world premiere at Frankfurt.

Depending on the model and trim level it is up to 200kg lighter than its predecessor. The completely new vehicle architecture plays a major role in the weight reduction. Every component was checked for compact design and lightweight materials. The body shell weight alone was reduced by 20 per cent from 357kg to 280kg.

The Astra Sports Tourer also features OnStar, the ground-breaking connectivity technology now available across Europe. OnStar includes high-speed 4G LTE mobile network, emergency response notification and stolen vehicle recovery alert.

The Sports Tourer is also one of the first vehicles from a mainstream manufacturer to get Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, available through a new version of the IntelliLink information system.



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4 Pets & Animals

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guns & dogs

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Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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5 Business & Farming

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commercial premises sale / let

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6 Property

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GREAT BRIDGE, single studio room, ensuite, CH, FF. View rec. 07577 212029/0121 4391696.

MOBILE HOME Ivy Cottage Mobile: Home Park, Hopton. Bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, lounge, DG, CH. £95 pwk. No DSS. 07799 392439 or 07300 110622.

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ClassifiedAds

8

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£1,200 ono.
07801 203695.

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Hatchback, 56 Reg., silver, full MoT, replacement of clutch and flywheel, 94,000 miles.
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ROVER 25 1.4L
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7

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nursing & carers

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part time - general

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9 Local Information

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

public & legal notices

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CALCUUTAWALA.
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SAHIBA ANSARI.
My daughters,
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SAFIA HANSIA.
New name
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WALSALL
WS2 9TW.

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Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)
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Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.
16/0111 Mr Babu Prajapati FOR: INSTALL DOUBLE GLAZED UPVC WINDOW TO SIDE ELEVATION. RETENTION OF EXISTING FASCIA SIGN AND TEMPORARY CANVAS SIGN TO SIDE ELEVATION. REMOVE REDUNDANT FITTINGS AND MAKE GOOD EXISTING FINISHES. RE-RENDER EXISTING SIDE ELEVATION WHERE INAPPROPRIATELY FINISHED WITH NEW RENDER TO MATCH ORIGINAL RENDERED FINISH. AT: 31, BRADFORD STREET, WALSALL, WS1 3QA
16/0106 Mr Vinod Jain FOR: RETAIN EXISTING POWDER COATED METAL ROLLER SHUTTER SECURITY DOOR, BOX AND GUIDE RAILS AND RETENTION OF EXISTING PERSEXP SIGN TO SHOP FRONT AND PROJECTING SIGN. REMOVE REDUNDANT WIRING AND FITTINGS AND MAKE GOOD EXISTING FINISHES. RETAIN EXISTING SATELLITE DISH AND SECURITY CAMERA. RETAIN EXISTING UPVC WINDOWS TO FRONT ELEVATION. AT: 26, BRADFORD STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1PN
16/0067 Mr M Ashwin FOR: CHANGE OF USE OF UPPER FLOORS FROM A1 RETAIL USE TO 3 X RESIDENTIAL UNITS (C3 USE) AND REPLACEMENT WINDOWS. AT: CASH GENERATOR, 18, BRADFORD STREET, WALSALL, WALSALL, WS1 1PB
15/0024/FL Mr Tahir Mahmoud FOR: SIDE PORCH AND SINGLE STOREY POOL EXTENSION TO REAR. AT: 8 VICTORIA TERRACE, WALSALL, WS4 2DA

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10 Personals

personal



ALONE? OVER 35? Friendship/Companionship. 01432 355144
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SMART GENTLEMAN 71
5ft 5ins tall, medium build,
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Friendship and possible
relationship.
All areas.
Photo please (returned).
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Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



GENTLEMAN
Looking for a male partner aged
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Lichfield or Wolverhampton
area.
Photo appreciated (Returned).
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Queen Street,
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MALE, 64, NEW TO AREA
Seeks Female, late 50's early
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Friendship.
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

TRYING TO TRACE K T BARBER

Previously worked as a
Psychiatric Nurse in Liverpool,
since then moved to Cannock.
Mother originally from
Anglesea.

Please could you get in touch
with your half Brother Anthony.
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London Theatre



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Rail inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night Theatre from £169⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital.

There's a selection of London hotels to choose from (supplements may apply) and rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on Sunday.

The ticket is for the Saturday evening.

Rail inclusive breaks – Three days

Theatre Showstopper from £239⁹⁵

This popular package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday returning on Sunday.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade, plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel (supplements may apply).

Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night from £149⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159⁹⁵

Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket (option to upgrade) and an overnight stay in an outer London hotel.

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal, whereas the Saturday Night option is for the evening performance (meal not included).

Price includes:

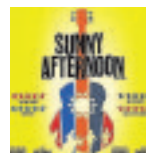
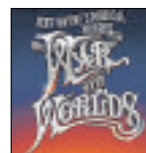
- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ One or two nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- ✓ Evening meal (with certain packages)
- ✓ Free time in London
- ✓ Services of a tour driver
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Please note Star Reader Travel are unable to take bookings. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

"The 'from' price and price bands vary for each show — see brochure/web page for details.

DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES



Aldridge in the frame as semi-finals are reached

ALDRIDGE are bdding to win their first inter town competition since 1971 and progressed to the semi-finals after defeating a resolute Bridgnorth side. They will now face local rivals Landywood.

This week also saw the first silverware of the season go to Wednesfield Cons as they comfortably accounted for Q Bar by an aggregate score of 486 to 336 in the Reg Oakes three-a-side competition, with the highlight of the night going to the Cons' Paul Harrison who fired in a fine 66 break.

In the Premier Division, leaders St Johns faced a tricky away match at third placed Cannock Cons B and narrowly came out on top with a deciding frame 3-2 victory to all but eliminate Cannock from the title race after their second defeat in a row.

Reigning champions Wednesfield Cons A cut the leaders' gap to 10 points going into the final third of the season, as they defeated Lea Hall 4-1 away.

In Division One, leaders Bentley Moor A relinquished top spot when they suffered a shock 3-2 reverse at struggling Essington WMC. The new leaders are Bloxwich Memorial B who demolished Bentley Moor B 4-1 away.

Wins came from Simon Kelly, Bob Davis, Charlie Fletcher and Martin Reilly confirming top spot and victory.

Results: Premier League: Bloxwich Memorial A 1 Golden Cue A 4; Cannock Cons B 2 St Johns SC 3; Fishley Park 2 Aldridge Cons 3; Lea Hall Club 1 Wednesfield Cons A 4; Ogley Hay 2 Pelsall Social A 3; Old Hall 2 Victoria A 3; Stafford Road 1 Landywood SC A 4.

Division One: Essington WMC 3 Bentley Moor A 2; Landywood SC B 3 Aldridge Cons C 2; Q Bar 2 Birchills 3; Victoria 1 Lichfield Road BC 3 4; Wednesfield Cons B 4 Golden Cue C 1; Athenaeum Club 2 Darlaston Cons 3; Bentley Moor 1 Bloxwich Memorial B 4; Norton Vic 1 Amery 4.

Morris stays on and it's a happy return

Whitby Town 1 Rushall Olympic 3
RUSHALL made it back-to-back wins as they came away from Whitby with three points. But they were perhaps fortunate that Kieran Morris received only a yellow, not a red.

The first real chance of the game resulted in a goal for the Pics. Jake Heath played through Zak Martin, who was thwarted by Shane Bland only for Josh McKenzie to slot home the rebound on 25 minutes.

On 33 minutes, the Seasiders were level as Matthew Waters slotted in underneath debutant Kieran Preston. Straight from kick-off, Morris was perhaps lucky to see only yellow when he fouled as the last man. And Rushall were back in front less than 60 seconds into the second half as Alex Reid slammed home.

Four minutes later Reid's shot took a big deflection off Richard Pell and floated into the top corner.

On Monday, Pics booked a Walsall Senior Cup semi-final with Sporting Khalsa thanks to on-loan Crewie man Andre Brown's winner at Romulus.

Reid fires in a double to end Pics' run

Buxton 1 Rushall Olympic 2
OLYMPIC halted a run of two straight defeats with a 2-1 victory at Buxton.

The hosts went close to fluking an opener as Jamie Green's cross smacked the top of the crossbar.

The away side took a deserved lead on 27 minutes as Zak Martin played through Josh McKenzie who forced a save from Myles Wright only for the keeper to be beaten on the rebound by Reid rushing in.

Reid doubled the advantage on the stroke of half-time as he slammed home from 10 yards.

Buxton pulled a goal back on 62 minutes when substitute Niall Doran volleyed in at the back post.

Buxton's Glenn Belezika was dismissed for a second yellow card 11 minutes from time.

Swimmers achieve personal bests



The Broadway Swimming team

THE Staffordshire County Championships finalised last weekend with 17 swimmers from the Broadway club, Walsall, competing well.

Megan Butler and Harriet Shepherd swam 19 races between them, achieving 17 personal best times, in all the freestyle, breaststroke and distances and medley events.

Amy Perfit made the Senior Championship Final in the 100 metres and 50 metres freestyle.

Ewan Dalzell picked up a silver medal in the 50m senior freestyle, having returned to training following an injury. Adin Kamangira

made the final in the 15-year-old boys 100m breaststroke, with a personal best time and achieving personal bests in the 50m breaststroke and freestyle.

Younger swimmers competing in their first year were Elodie Rollins in the 10-year-old girls and Jenson Proctor and Callum Bird in the the 11-year-old boys.

Completing the team, with great swims were Riya Mistry, Alice Shepherd, Holly Phillips, Isabel Clarke, Millie Harmon, Alex Fisher, Jake Birmingham, George Pattinson and Matthias Henry.

To join, call 01922 409760.



Harriet, Ewan and Megan

Goal hero Richards a Saddlers legend

Looking back by Joseph Masi

ADORED by Walsall fans in his day, how Saddlers would benefit from the talents of striker Tony Richards in their current promotion push.

Snapped up from Birmingham City in 1954 after a brief spell in the Army, the forward initially found it hard to settle under the management of Frank Buckley and John Lowe.

But everything changed in the 1957-58 campaign once Bill Moore had taken over the managerial reins.

Richards sprung to life with his 20 goals, ensuring Walsall would start the next season in the newly-formed Division Four.

Having found his scoring touch, Richards bettered his tally the following year – scoring 28 times to help the Saddlers finish in sixth spot and just shy of promotion.

The hitman found the net 26 times in the next campaign, but that was enough to fire Walsall into Division Three. And while the step up may have deterred many, Richards found he got even better against more established opposition.

Relegated

His first campaign in the third tier saw him smash 36 goals, a figure which ensured he finished as the division's top scorer.

It also meant Walsall achieved their dream of back-to-back promotions.

However, the rise had come too quickly and the next season Walsall were relegated with Richards being sold to Port Vale for £9,000 in the summer of 1963.

In his first 14 games for Vale he scored 13 goals to endear himself to his new supporters.

Richards, however, then began to be blighted by injuries and left Vale in 1966, playing a few more years at Nuneaton and Dudley Town before hanging up his boots in 1967.

Prior to his death, in March 2010, Richards was made honorary life president of Walsall FC for his service to the club.

In total, the frontman scored 185 goals in 334 appearances in Saddlers colours.



Tony Richards displays the aerial prowess that brought him 185 goals for the Saddlers

Performance not reflected in scoreline

Walsall 12 Stratford 40

WALSALL battled really well and started in a very positive manner. Playing against the wind flanker Reece Bennett scored an early try.

Stratford gradually got a foothold in the game and scored their first try after a simple no8 pick up at a close range scrum.

Walsall exerted pressure but couldn't find an opening or utilise several overlaps that were created. Every time a mistake was made Stratford took full advantage with two more tries before half time.

The strong wind should have been an advantage for Walsall during the second half. But it was Stratford who were able to take their chances with two more converted tries.

Walsall continued to stay positive and reward for their tenacity came when Jeff Williamson went over in the corner, followed by Roger Weston's good touchline conversion.

Stratford had the final score, but the result did not really reflect how well Walsall played.

Walsall u-16s 29 Market Bosworth u-16s 12

WALSALL returned to winning ways when they welcomed Market Bosworth for their first visit to the Delves road ground. From a break on the right,

Rugby

Nico Watkins crashed through to score under the posts. Jamie Harding converted.

Harding then broke through and scored, despite a last gasp tackle. The visitors came back and following a chip ahead, they scored wide out. Towards the end of the first half James Tamilio pounced on a sloppy line out tap back to sprint in from 40m for the last score of the half.

Resolute defence kept Market Bosworth at bay at the start of the second half. However, from one attack the visitors spilled the ball which was picked up by Watkins who sprinted the length of the pitch to score and convert his own try.

Bosworth came back with a converted try. Walsall's final score, unconverted, came from George Perkins.

DK u-15s 31 Walsall u-15s 43

WALSALL'S early attacks attack paid dividends when a well worked move ended with Raighne Hutchinson scoring a sublime try in his first game.

Max Mason took the ball at pace to outrun the DK defence for Walsall's second. Mason later finished

off some good phases of play, although an injury forced him off the field after this score.

DK came back strongly scoring three tries to make it 19-21 at half-time after Tom Hall's successful conversions. Walsall made the ideal start to the second half with Joel Pepper putting Hutchinson powering around the defence to score. Joe Birch outpaced the defence after he gathered the loose ball to crash over. Pepper and Hutchinson combined once again to score.

DK came back with two more tries, then the Pepper, Hutchinson combination scored Walsall's final try with Fin Gibson adding the conversions.

Wednesbury 23 Cleve Hill 22

THIS rearranged match really was a game of two halves for Wednesbury, who trailed 22-3 at the break but clinched the game with a last-gasp try.

The only Wednesbury points of the first half came from the boot of Adam Avey.

But whatever coach Gary Summers said during the break worked wonders. Dan Blake drove over for a try, converted by Avey, Lee Allwood raced over, Avey added another penalty and Jack Harris touched down for the winner.

The 2nds won away to Walsall 3rds 24-5.

Birch makes his point on debut for Khalsa

Loughborough University 1 Sporting Khalsa 1

A LATE equaliser by debutant Chad Birch rescued a point for Khalsa in an exciting clash at Loughborough University.

The Students might have taken all three points but were denied by an offside flag after scrambling home late on.

Carlo Franco had to be on his toes to intervene to stop a dangerous Alun Webb cross reaching the lurking Max Herbert after just four minutes while at the other end Dave Meese made a hash of a header from a good set piece routine involving Mensah Kinch and Tim Jackson.

A good save by Connor O'Keefe denied Craig Bannister on 14 minutes as he covered good ground to get back and tip a long-range lob over the bar.

As Loughborough began to come into the game, Mihai Gherasim had to hold a swerving long-range effort with both Max Herbert and Ben Ward-Cochrane lurking. Then a Herbert shot was deflected onto the roof of the net.

The second half was more closely fought and it was Loughborough who opened the scoring on 69 minutes, Cameron Gordon tapping home.

Khalsa pressure finally told on 83 minutes as a Tes Robinson flick found Birch and the debutant fired home.

Loughborough sub Jerimiah Dasaolu's close range strike was controversially ruled out for offside in the dying moments.

Craig Bannister was on target, but Simeon Townsend also scored as Khalsa defeated Coventry Sphinx 3-0 on Monday night.

Peach of an accolade for boxing coach

GREAT Wyrley Amateur Boxing Club coach Andy Peach was one of the winners at the prestigious Midland Area Boxing Board of Control Awards last weekend.

Peach boxed as a light middle-weight from 1992-98 and despite finishing with a record of 10 wins in 45 contests, he often took contests at the last minute to help promoters out whose boxers' bouts had fallen through. Peach, of Bloxwich, fought world title contenders such as Howard Eastman, Neil Sinclair and Howard Clarke and British Champions Harry Dhami and James Hare.

After retiring from the ring, Peach was out of the game for more than 10 years until a chance visit to Great Wyrley ABC five years ago led to him becoming a coach, passing on his knowledge learned from more than 30 years in the ring to youngsters in the gym, despite suffering two strokes in the last four years.

Peach was presented with the Boxer from the Past Award last Saturday by former British Heavy-weight Champion Bunny Johnson.

Peacocks strut to climb above rivals Lockmen

Gornal Athletic 4 Willenhall Town 1
GORNAL leapfrogged Willenhall in the West Midlands Premier.

The Lockmen had three early chances, but Gornal took the lead in the 12th minute when Ben Holden's poor goal-kick was headed back and Stuart Hillman fired home.

Three minutes before the break Gornal doubled their lead when Holden made a superb save only for Liam Hickman to tuck away the loose ball from close range.

Willenhall cut the deficit when a half-cleared free-kick fell to Lyndon Weller who scored with a dipping first-time volley.

However, the two-goal cushion was restored on 69 minutes when Hillman scored from close range. Four minutes later, Geoff Hill broke clear for the fourth.



Small squad 'a big help' to Saddlers

DEFENDER Paul Downing believes having a small squad has helped Walsall in their bid to win promotion.

The Saddlers currently sit fourth in League One, having used just 21 players – the fewest out of all 24 teams in the division.

Peterborough lead the way, having used 38 closely followed by Oldham and Swindon who have both deployed 35.

League leaders Burton have used the second fewest on 23 and Downing believes it's no coincidence those two teams are right in the promotion mix.

"To use such a small amount of players has been a good thing for us," the centre-back said. "It has kept us together and I think everyone has seen the team spirit that exists in the group."

"With a small squad, you have to take responsibility for yourself to ensure you stay in tip-top shape."

Downing got to renew his defensive partnership with James O'Connor as the Saddlers played out a goalless draw with Nigel Clough's Burton on Saturday.

O'Connor missed the Saddlers last two games with a thigh injury with Matt Preston impressing in his absence.

And Downing admitted it was good to have the former Derby centre-back even if he did feel Preston was unlucky to miss out. "I have played a lot of seasons with Jimmy and we have a good relationship," he said.

"Matty Preston was unfortunate to be dropped. But Jimmy brings with him great experience," he said.

Boss Sean O'Driscoll was also pleased to see O'Connor return.

"Paul and Jimmy have played together all season – and as soon as Jimmy was fit, he was going to come straight back in," he added.

"They complement each other, which is what you want – good pairings all over the pitch."

Riding high near top as struggling rivals convincingly beaten

Old Wulfs 3 Bloxwich 5
BLOXWICH convincingly beat a struggling Old Wulfs team on their new pitch.

With both teams winning promotion into the league last season, fortunes this campaign could not be more contrasting, with Bloxwich riding high near the top and Old Wulfs struggling desperately at the foot of the table.

From the start, Bloxwich looked the more determined team with Harry Robinson scoring yet another fantastic reverse stick shot from an outrageous angle in the opening minutes.

From this point on, Bloxwich were always in control. Old Wulfs got an equaliser but Robinson managed to score again from a short corner. In the second half, Gary Williams (2) and Lee Hale added to the scoresheet.

The Barbarians let their guard down towards the end, with Old Wulfs scoring two consolation goals.

This win takes Bloxwich back to near the top of the table and with a tough final three games, two of which against teams they have lost against, the team are determined to finish on a high.

Martial artists keep it in the family



Walsall EMA members show off their trophies

IT was a family affair as Walsall Elite Martial Arts had a successful start to the season at the Midlands championships.

Instructor Jason Rowley won gold in the men's individual continuous sparring black belt heavyweight division in Kettering and formed a team to win another gold in the tag team event.

His sister, fellow instructor Emily Arms, struck gold in the ladies continuous sparring black belt heavyweight division and in the ladies tag team.

Sisters Imaan and Mayah Anwar each came away with their first piece of silverware. Imaan won bronze in the point stop sparring girls light-

Martial arts

weight yellow belt division and Mayah won her first title, a gold in the girls yellow belt middle-weight sparring division.

Brothers Aryan Singh and Rajan Purba followed suit, the former landing gold in the boys middleweight black belt continuous sparring division and team silver and bronze in the patterns division. In his first championships, Rajan won a bronze in the boys yellow belt patterns division.

Walsall EMA Tiger Eleanor Causier claimed a double silver in her first championships.

SIDES BREW UP STALEMATE

Burton Albion 0 Walsall 0

A THRILLER it wasn't, but then how could this game ever live up to its importance and pre-match hype?

Two teams, arguably the best organised in League One, went into battle knowing the result was always going to play a major part in the promotion race.

What the 5,000 or so supporters at the Pirelli Stadium witnessed was a stalemate, a keenly fought and even contest which Walsall just about shaded on chances created.

But there is a reason why these two teams, against the bookmakers' odds, are enjoying such fruitful campaigns.

Both have been built over a number years. And both have an incredibly strong spine, within which all the players know their strengths and responsibilities.

Burton play on organisation and discipline more than any other side in the Football League.

Even at home they line up in a narrow 4-1-4-1 formation, packing the midfield and placing huge emphasis on striker Stuart Beavon to wreak havoc up front.

Pressure

It is defensively, not offensively, where the Brewers shine – very rarely giving their opposition the slightest sight of goal.

Their tally of 42 goals scored is the lowest in the top 10, yet after this game they remain top of the table by two points and with a game in hand over Wigan.

That defensive solidity put incredible pressure on the Saddlers back-line going into this one, with each defender knowing a costly error would make it very difficult for their side to win the game.

They had to be faultless. And faultless they were, with centre-backs Paul Downing and James O'Connor outstanding and defensive midfielder Adam Chambers his imperious best.

That platform gave Sean O'Driscoll's side a shot at winning the game and they created three very good chances.

The first saw Romaine Sawyers almost poke the ball past the on-rushing Jon McLaughlin



Saddlers midfielder Sam Mantom tries his luck in the hard-earned point at the Pirelli Stadium

after he was played in on goal but the keeper got just enough on the ball to thwart him.

For the second, Downing saw a sharp strike from a corner pushed over the bar while after the break, McLaughlin saved with his knees after Jason Demetriou had galloped into the box.

It has to be noted Nigel Clough's side had their chances too. Winger Lucas Akins headed a free-kick over when he should have done better. And a combination of Demetriou and Neil Etheridge kept out Mason Bennett when a brilliant Calum Butcher ball split the Walsall defence.

In truth, Neil Etheridge only had two saves to make as Walsall did to Burton what Burton do to

everyone else. The game plan was less expansive than what Saddlers fans are used to. Yet it got the job done and ensured Walsall were always going to come away from a very important game with at least a point.

A cagey encounter, this was a clash for tactical enthusiasts rather than neutrals. But a point was a good result for both sides, with Walsall keeping their first clean sheet in the league in 2016.

With big-spending Wigan now well placed in the top two, it's unlikely both the Saddlers and the Brewers will both go up automatically. And that means Walsall have to take their impressive away form back to the Banks's.

Boxer Clarke is added to town hall bill

HALESOWEN super middleweight Lennox Clarke has been added to Black Country Boxing's 'Cool Hand & The Gang'.

The undefeated boxer takes on Swindon's Kelvin Young over six rounds on the Walsall Town Hall show, sponsored by Grosvenor Casino Walsall, on Saturday, March 19.

Clarke was added to the card after a career-best win over Richard Horton. The Essex fighter was expected to give Clarke his toughest test to date but 'Dangerous' blew him away inside a round.

Walsall super lightweight, Luke 'Cool Hand' Paddock, takes on Derbyshire's Lee Connelly in a six round contest at the top of the bill whilst fellow Walsall fighter Martin Gethin makes a welcome return to the town hall against Newark's Fonz Alexander, also over six rounds.

Midlands Area Super Welterweight Champion Jason Welborn is in action as he looks to secure a third shot at a British title.

The Bowater brothers – super featherweight Des and welterweight Sid – feature. The former takes on Chris Adaway at super featherweight over six rounds while Sid steps in with Birmingham's Dwayne Sheldon over four rounds.

West Bromwich middleweight Tom Stokes takes on Stoke's Mark Till over four rounds whilst Burton featherweight Leon Gower is also on the card.

Two debutants who have made the switch from kickboxing complete the bill, including Wolverhampton's former world featherweight champion Kyle Williams, who debuts at bantamweight.

Tickets are £30 (general admission) and £60 (VIP Ringside), and can be purchased by calling 0845 111 2900 or directly from any boxer on the bill.

Cricketer Tufnell to have guests in spin

FORMER England cricketer Phil Tufnell is the star attraction at a Dudley hotel next month.

The Question of Sport captain will entertain with 'An Evening With...' at the Copthorne Hotel, Level Street, Brierley Hill, on Thursday, April 16 from 7.45pm.

BBC Radio WM's Paul Franks will emcee the night, while comedy will come from Gary Marshall.

Dress code is lounge suits and a three-course meal will be served. There will also be a charity raffle and auction.

Individual tickets are £55, while tables of eight or 10 cost £50 per head.

To book tickets, call 01902 244220.

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